

P. G.

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Bren Gun Battle In Haifa

(He told them the 288 detainees—suspected of terrorism and political offences in Palestine—were becoming increasingly restless and the position was deteriorating.)—Reuter.

MARSHALL'S STATEMENT

Mr Marshall made his statement in response to Republican criticism that the present programme was inadequate and that military aid should be added to the material and economic assistance already envisaged.

Speculations Rife In Canton

Sources close to Dr Soong, however, were reticent when asked to comment on the current speculation. They point out that even if such prediction is accurate, it is by no means certain that Dr Soong would accept the post, unless he is given

(Continued on Page 12)

The Republican Representatives on the Committee criticised the aid plan. "To put in economic aid without enough for military aid

London, Feb. 20. — Europe
frost has today. In the third
day of bitter winter weather a
mass of cold air moved west-
ward from Russia, bringing with
it a trail of ice roads and snow.
Berlin recorded 25 degrees of
frost and still lower tempera-
tures were forecast for tonight—
but tomorrow was expected to
be slightly warmer.
In Moscow, 1.4 degrees
Fahrenheit—30.6 degrees of frost—
—was recorded.
The coldest town in France
was Macon, with 18 degrees of
frost. In Britain the coming
weather was expected to con-
tinue unbroken day and night as
far as ahead forecasters could
see ahead.—Reuter.

New Three-Power Agreement

ing for a passenger plane which had left Florence at 1 p.m. bound for Rome.—Reuter.

Rome, Feb. 20.—Five people were killed and four seriously injured when a Tesco Line Dakota aircraft crashed near Leghorn this afternoon. It was earlier reported that search parties in Central Italy were looking for a passenger plane which had left Florence at 1 p.m. bound for Rome.—Reuter.

Istanbul, Feb. 20.—Many bodies are floating across the flood devastated areas of central and southern Turkey—probably the country's richest agricultural area—according to press despatches reaching Istanbul on Friday.

Posta" the number of deaths in three villages in the Tarsus area is from 400 to 500, while nothing has been heard for the past four days from 40 other villages in that region. Reports from survivors said that in the small village of Orozerli, 400 people had perished.

Officers Censured

SEQUEL TO FIRE ON SHIP OFF LANTAU

under control and finally extinguished by about 7.30 a.m. This was accomplished by the use of fire transmission system from the settling tank to the burners, via the heater, burst, thereby causing a stream of oil to be projected into the stockhold, although we must regard that as a possibility. A defective burner could also be re-

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It appears that at 5.10 a.m. on 9.2.48, while the vessel on its alternate daily return trip from Macao to Hongkong, was approaching the south-western tip of Lantau Island, a fire was observed by Cheung Hung, the stoker on duty in the stokehold, and he saw flames coming

boiler. This was immediately reported to the 2nd engineer who was on watch in the adjoining engine room, and foam fire extinguishers and two water hoses (the latter being operated from "fiddle")

was brought to the notice of all the ship's officers including the master by 0.15 a.m. All witnesses seem to agree that this fire was brought under control and firehoses were

accomplished by the use of fire heater, burst, thereby causing a stream of oil to be projected into the stockhold, although we must regard that as a possibility. A defective burner could also be re-

Turkey

bodies are floating across the

The whole valley from Kozan, well North of Adana to the Mediterranean coast, is agricultural area—according to Istanbul on Friday.

NO STEAM IN BOILERS

No one seems to have kept an accurate mental time table of events that morning, and the exact time when the warships first began ordering their guns to open fire.

on Friday but the total number of dead has been described as "fantastic." An accurate check is not immediately possible.

to minimise the situation." Official sources at Ankara said that broken communications have prevented any definite information on the casualties being obtained, but insisted that the numbers must be low.—Associated Press.

H.K. & The Boyce Report

THE report of Sir Leslie Boyce's Trade Mission to China has at last come off the printing presses, 14 months after the Mission ended its visit. This delay, however, does not deprive the report of any of its pertinence; and it is a most interesting document in which the Mission reached lent added forcefulness by the conditions prevailing at this moment in China. The report is becomingly cautious in estimating the amount of increased and more profitable trading between Britain and China, wisely insisting that prerequisites for any appreciable expansion are peace and economic stability within the country. A chapter is devoted to Hongkong, the chief intermediate port, and containing a number of suggestions. The chief recommendations are that a United Kingdom Trade Representative be sent to Hongkong; that the Trades Union Congress should consider sending an experienced representative here to advise labour leaders on the organisation of their unions; everything should be done to re-establish the Hongkong Universal Exhibition, which had been regarded as an exhibition for British goods, and used as such; relations between the trading interests—and the Government—of the Colony and South China should be greatly improved; and that they are today. The first of Sir

ready been acted upon. A British trade representative is now here and has started on his task of establishing closer trade relations between China, Hongkong and Britain. The attention which the Mission devoted to the potentialities of the Hongkong University as a medium for training and for the dissemination of its administration deserves close and sympathetic consideration by the Court of the University. The proposition gains emphasis in light of the promised municipal reform and its consequent demands for a wider appreciation of civic responsibility among the general public. The Mission clearly envisages the University substantially expanding, but this touches the subject of what, if any assistance the Imperial Government is prepared to give. The prospects of any important financial aid from London are discouraging, the attitude displayed so far being that the University should endeavour to find its own way. This calls for the Hongkong University must struggle along on a shoe-string, with little or no opportunities of implementing the Boyce recommendations, no matter how sensible and attractive they may be. Seeing that it has sufficient initiative, Hongkong can put into effect several of the Mission's suggestions, to the mutual advantage of the Colony and our next-door neighbour, China.

"To meet these additional needs for foreign exchange, China will have available certain financial resources of her own. These include

proceeds from exports, miscellaneous receipts from such sources as overseas remittances, the sale of surplus property, foreign government and philanthropic expenditures in China, and finally—to be called on if necessary—China's reserves of gold and foreign exchange, which were estimated as equivalent to \$274 million as of January 1, 1949.

taneously presented to the Committee, the State Department disclosed that the \$570 million would be spent thus: wheat and rice \$130 million; cotton \$150 million.

million, tobacco \$28 million, metals \$24 million, pharmaceuticals \$5 million, coal \$3 million, machinery repair parts \$30 million.

An additional \$60 million will be

The Republican Representatives on the Committee criticised the aid plan. "To put in economic aid

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and GERALDINE
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"TECHNICOLOR CARTOONS PROGRAM"

GLAMOURis not the
way to fame

HOLLYWOOD success can be a dangerous thing on which stars can slip and tumble and break their professional neck. I know, for it happened to me.

It has happened to a lot of other film people, too, like Al Jolson and Louise Rainer. Too much success can put you in a hole. It takes cold nerve, brains and a lot of luck to get out.

Take, for instance, Al Jolson. He became the world's richest actor and lolled around basking in Florida's fabulous sunshine until he could not find a job. Or Miss Rainer. She won two Academy Awards, and ran smack into trouble when ordinary roles made her look bad by comparison with her award-winning pictures.

THE DANGER

Or take my own case. It shows how danger can lurk behind what appears to be Hollywood's most successful moment. It also illustrates that there is a lighter side. It all started one day when a so-called board of experts decided that I was Hollywood's most beautiful woman. Now that was very flattering, and I got a lot of what I thought was excellent publicity. But it also showed me away from stardom into a channel of "reputation" and, completely devoid of any real drama and the chance to show that I was really an actress.

Stars Losing Gypsy Fever

By Carlisle Jones

MOTION picture people have finally learned to "stay put."

Passing years, during which there was a war, a housing shortage and a strict limit on telephones, have brought about a decided change.

Lead by Dennis Morgan, who bought and established a permanent home for his family in La Canada, Los Angeles, suburb in the hills, film celebrities generally have begun to anchor themselves firmly in established residences and estates.

Even the much-travelled Errol Flynn, is firmly fixed in residence in the steeper hills of Mulholland Drive.

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall have settled down in a domicile of their own, and Claude Rains is tied to his Pennsylvania farm. Bette Davis, likewise, has her Butternut farm near Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, and also owns a beach house at Laguna, California. She refers to both as permanent addresses.

Became Allergic

Jean Crawford, has occupied the same house in Brentwood since the beginning of her stardom in pictures. Jack Carson keeps his Van Nuys home and Dana Clark has about completed the rebuilding of his residence in West Los Angeles—on permanent lines.

Ann Sheridan is happy with her Echo Park ranchette. Eleanor Parker is substantially housed with her husband in Beverly Hills and Barbara Stanwyck, who moved from her ranch some years ago into the same section, is content to stay right there.

And why this new yen for the old home and fire-place?

"Perfectly simple," said Jack Carson, who used to be one of filmland's paid-off radicals. "We became allergic to evictions."

BY
**DOLORES
DEL RIO**

I can still remember in the not so long ago that the thick of champagne glasses was music to my ears, and that I was trying awfully hard to be radiant and smiling all over the place. I was innocent of any knowledge that all the parties and glamour occasions concealed what was almost "the kiss of death" for my career.

A group of America's most famous artists and photographers (as part of the glamour publicity build-up) named me, eddywood beauty, my picture appeared in a million places—magazines, newspapers, billboards, everywhere you looked. I was the focus of a big glamour campaign; I was on top of the world.

Constance Bennett and I were chosen the "best dressed women of the year." And then it happened to Connie. Her career shrivelled and died.

AN IDEA

MEANWHILE, I went on being photographed in beautiful clothes and basking in the sunshine of glamour publicity. Then somebody got an idea. I should be pictured in a white bathing suit, because my tan skin would set it off in an especially revealing way. Well, perhaps it was a good idea to begin with, since photo editors could not get enough of the pictures for their various indulgences.

Six months later it dawned on me that I was getting plenty of roles in films with "eye appeal," but nothing with any real drama or character. I wanted to be an actress, not just a glamour girl. I protested—but to no avail. Always the same answer: "You're beautiful, and that's what we exploit." Only that and nothing more. Professionally speaking, I was a prisoner of beauty—and a dying one at that.

I had to do something and do it quick. I had to find a way out. So

• Vivien Leigh May Play Salome

SIR RALPH RICHARDSON has jumped right into the top-star class since walking away with the honours in "Anna Karenina."

He has nearly completed work as a father in the Carol Reed semi-thriller, "Lost Illusion," and he is to return to the stage next month as a Ruritanian king in Romilly Cavan's "Royal Circle," with Lillian Brathwaite.

Now, I believe, Sir Alexander Korda has another idea for him—to join Richardson and Orson Welles in a film of Oscar Wilde's "Salome." The idea—still in the discussion stage—is for Richardson to play Herod, Welles as Herod, and possibly Vivien Leigh as Salome.

AFTER working for a year on the biggest and most expensive project of his career, Sir Laurence Olivier will be twelve thousand miles away when the finished job is ready for inspection.

His film of "Hamlet" is now off the studio floor and in the cutting and editing stage. It has cost £2,500,000. Its box office takings will be the biggest single factor in the



The author of this article once voted the most beautiful woman in Hollywood... says that was the worst thing that could have happened to her.

I kicked off my high heels and rolled down my silk stockings and stood in my bare feet. I told producers they could not give glamour to a girl who was barefooted, and stuck by my guns!

I went back home to Mexico City and walked barefoot into Spanish language films. I played everything from old crones to peasant girls, always barefoot.

My plan was working. I won several awards for acting—three from Mexico's Ministry of Culture and one from the International Board of Censor (France) with "Maria Candelaria," which was judged as the best last year.

SECOND CHANCE

In fact, it was "Maria Candelaria" that gave me my second chance in Hollywood. I was pleased when Director John Ford said after seeing it: "She's not a beauty—she's an actress."

It brought me a contract to star in Ford's picture, "The Fugitive," with Henry Fonda. But there was one thing I insisted on before signing the contract. When you see the picture you will know what it was. Again I play the part of a girl named Maria—and in my bare feet.

Rank organisation's profit-or-loss account this year.

When "Hamlet" has its first showing in the West End, probably next April, Olivier will be in Australia with his wife, Vivien Leigh, and an Old Vic Company.

JOSEPH PASTERNAK is trying to get his early film pupil, Deanna Durbin, for a remake of "Reunion in Vienna."

The previous version, made in 1933, starred John Barrymore and Diana Wynyard.

If Deanna goes into the picture, it will reunite the trio which 10 years ago saved Universal from financial disaster with "Three Smart Girls"—Durbin, Pasternak and Henry Koster.

HANDLESS veteran Harold Russell, winner of two Oscars for "The Best Years of Our Lives," narrowly escaped serious injury recently.

The car in which Russell was riding rolled over twice, and swerved over a 15-foot embankment.

Russell climbed out of the wreckage with a black eye.

Incidentally, he declares that "The Best Years of Our Lives" is his first and last film. He will finish his studies at Boston University and then accept a position in the New York office of Samuel Goldwyn (who produced that Oscar-winning movie film).

DETER CHEYNEY, without doubt one of the world's best-selling novelists (since 1936 his books have sold more than ten million copies in every language except Russian and Turkish) is taking no chances with the film version of his "Uncasy Terms." Not content with writing the screen play, Cheyney is at hand on the set every day to see that his book is translated faithfully to the screen.

"Uncasy Terms," the most recent and among the most successful of all Cheyney's thirty novels, is the first to be filmed. It is a psychological thriller, with an English country setting and an exceptionally ingenious and unusual plot. Good-looking Michael Rennie is playing the part of "Slim" Callaghan, hard-boiled private detective; and the cast also includes Moira Lister, Faith Brook (daughter of veteran actor Clive Brook) and Joy Shelton.

THEATRE Directory

KING'S—Road to Utopia (Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour)
QUEEN'S—Sinbad the Sailor (Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Maureen O'Hara)
LEE—Strange Woman (Hedy Lamarr, George Sanders, Louis Hayward)
CENTRAL—San Antonio (Errol Flynn, Alexis Smith)
ORIENTAL—Last of the Redmen (Jon Hall)
CATHAY—O. S. S. (Alan Ladd, Geraldine Fitzgerald)
ALHAMBRA—San Antonio
MAJESTIC—The Best Years of Our Lives (Myrna Loy, Freddie March, Dana Andrews)
STAR—None Shall Escape (Alexander Knox, Marsha Hunt)

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You'll find Adventure...
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Action... Spectacle...

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Thrills!
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WARNER'S ADVENTURE
OF THE CENTURY
OUT OF THE CENTURY
THAT MADE TEXAS GREAT!

SAN ANTONIO
IN TECHNICOLOR
ERROL FLYNN • ALEXIS SMITH

LIVED WITH LOOT AMID SQUALOR

Motherly Mary Swallow, a buxom 50, slow-moving and benign, has often been seen in West End stores in the past four years. No one ever saw her do anything suspicious.

Yet time after time a customer would miss a handbag she had put down while trying on some garment. Sometimes handbags disappeared under the eyes of the owners and shop assistants, yet no one ever saw their going.

Mary had brought handbag-lifting to a fine art. In those four years she stole 140 handbags and their contents, valued together at £2,294.

She lived on the £1,195 she found in the bags, but in a very frugal way.

"A Thrill"

Her home in Chepstow-road, Bayswater, was one small dark room, very dirty and uncleaned for, but packed with luxury articles from the bags which she never used or sold.

Then, one day, she turned from handbag stealing to actual shop-lifting.

When the police searched her room, they found £177 in Bank of England notes, a considerable sum in foreign currencies, six fountain pens, several gold and silver cigarette cases, jewellery, clothing, coupon books and watches to a total value of £1,099.

Mary told the Recorder at the Old Bailey that she did it all for a thrill. "Ifs time, you took a rest," said the Recorder, sending her to three years penal servitude.

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THIS WEEK AT THE
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THREE SHOWS EACH MORNING

ADMISSION 60 CENTS

THEIR FOURTH 'ROAD' PICTURE



BING CROSBY, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour team up for a fourth time in "Road to Utopia," bowing in today at the King's Theatre. Reputedly their funniest "Road" picture to date, the film was produced by Paul Jones and directed by Hal Walker, the man responsible for such musical hits as "Out of This World," "Duffy's Tavern" and "The Stork Club."

Written by Norman Panama and Melvin Frank, the script is a serious take-off on the old gold rush days when fortune hunters hied north to the Yukon in search of buried treasure. In "Road to Utopia" Bob and

Bing set out to rescue Dorothy's inherited gold mine from two desperate thugs. Also included in the cast are Hillary Brooke, Douglas Dumbrille and Jack LaRue.

Johnny Burke and James Van Heusen provided the musical score with such numbers as "It's Anybody's Dream," "Put It There Pal" and "Personality," sung by the three stars.

"Road to Utopia" is considered even funnier than the three previous "Road" pictures with the same stars.



Since hearing that Independence Day
for Burma was fixed by the stars,
I have had Fun Finding Out about—

ASTROLOGY

HAVE you read the story of the Burmese Cabinet and the astrologers? We were going to give Burma her independence on January 6, 1948, but the Burmese insisted on January 4, and when pressed to explain they said they were acting on the advice of their astrologers, who changed their minds three times.

January 6, which in our calendar was a Tuesday and Epiphany, was not an auspicious day for launching a new State, they said. The Sunday after the moon's third quarter would be much better. There is nothing much you can say to an answer like that. The British Government agreed, and the King gave his assent.

So that's all right, and let us hope Burma will live happily ever after, but as this is the first time in my memory that the question of astrology has reached Cabinet level it might be interesting to find out something about it.

The official soothsayer

At one time no Government would dream of making an important decision without consulting the astrologers, but the system has dropped out of practice. The nearest we have now to an official soothsayer is the Astronomer Royal, who tells us what the stars will be doing at any particular moment, and leaves the deductions to those who are interested.

Astronomy is the study of the stars, and is useful because it helps us to navigate ships, tell the time, and know when it will be high tide.

The astrologers go much further than this. They say that you can use this same knowledge of the stars to foretell the fate and future of human beings.

Astronomy probably began when the first caveman noticed that it was light and warm if the sun shone, and dark and cold if it didn't. This knowledge, which must have been considered quite profound at one time, enabled him to predict when would be a good time to go hunting.

Later on some genius discovered that there didn't just happen to be a moonlight one night and not another. There was a regular cycle which enabled you to predict when the moon would shine.

On an island somewhere in the Pacific, a wild Polynesian is carrying out the esoteric religious rites of his tribe.

NONE of them would have any inkling that their speech, thoughts and emotions, their customs, habits and laws are known and observed in detail at any centre; or that off Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London, in a large modern building devoted to this sole purpose, all the secrets and rules of their languages, their history and their national peculiarities, are studied and taught accurately and scientifically.

This study includes almost 100 Oriental and African languages and spheres of culture, ranging from sacred Sanskrit and classical Arabic, to the dialects of the most primitive negro tribes in the remotest corners of Africa.

It is a unique centre for the study of languages and national cultures; linguistic centre for the countless races, peoples and tribes living in the British Empire, protected and culturally fostered by it.

This centre, in which all the languages of the East and of the African continent are understood, spoken, studied and taught, is the

by BERNARD WICKSTEED

With information like that at your finger tips you could make prophecies which astounded your more ignorant fellows. And when you found that the highest tide came every fortnight when the moon was new or full, you began to feel you were really getting somewhere.

The first people to take up astrology in a big way were the Babylonians. They decided that if light and warmth were governed by the predictable movements of the sun, and the tides were governed by the moon, then everything else must be controlled by one or other of the heavenly bodies. All you had to find out was what governed what.

So the priests got to work and by a system of trial and error they worked out the answer to everything. Saturn was the furthest away of the planets then known and took 29 years to circle the heavens. From this it was obvious that if governed people who were slow and dignified, patient and aloof.

Venus is the brightest of the planets, so it was an elementary deduction that it was her influence which made people merry and gay.

Control by the stars

After the Babylonians the Greeks, the Egyptians, the Romans, and the Mohammedans took it up, and they tabulated more and more associations between the stars and things on earth.

Venus for instance, was claimed to govern such a variety of things as walnut trees, all flowers, copper, coral, red lips, love, and Friday.

People who do not believe in astrology say these deductions are ridiculous. They say you might as well look at the bumps on a piece of fried liver.

As a matter of fact, in Burma and parts of Asia and Africa people do foretell the future by looking at lumps of liver. A whole science has been built up round it called hepatoscopy (from the Greek hepatos meaning a liver).

The Babylonians and the Greeks used it as an alternative to astrology. Say you wanted to know if a new king would have a long and happy reign, you sacrificed a sheep and then looked for auspicious marks on its liver. The markings and shape of no two livers are exactly alike, so you had plenty of scope.

Marks on the right-hand side were favourable and on the left unfavourable, and a wound meant

plunder. From this it followed that a wound on the right meant you'd get the plunder, and one on the left that someone would plunder you.

Handbook for amateurs

The Greeks took it so seriously that they brought out a handbook for amateurs on the lines of modern publications which tell you how to read a tea-cup.

But good comes out of most things, and the Ancients got so interested in the study of liver that they began looking at other parts of the animals they killed, and that was the beginning of veterinary surgery.

Now for a story proving that men are not the only astrologers. There is a fish in the Pacific called the grunion that lays its eggs on the beach of California on the fourth day after full moon and at no other time. If the Babylonians had known about grunions they would have said it proved their case.

The naturalists explain it like this. Grunion eggs hatch only in dry sand. To lay them the parents must get themselves stranded at the top of the spring tide, afterwards flapping back to the sea.

A couple of weeks later, as the eggs are hatching, the next spring tide comes and sweeps the young grunions into the sea.

But that is only half the story. Why do the grunion soothsayers claim that the eggs shall be laid only at the tides of the full moon? What is the matter with the new moon tides?

The answer is that the new moon tides are the highest and if the eggs were laid then the full moon tides wouldn't reach them, and the grunion young would perish in the dry sand.

When fish bite better

And here is another example of practical astrology. A lot of people say that fish bite better when the moon is directly overhead or on the opposite side of the earth.

Placed and an enterprising American uses this information to get out charts telling you what time of the day to fish. He would have done well in Babylon, that fellow. He doesn't do badly in America.

Well, that is the background of astrology and you can make what you like of it. But the odd thing is that even those who call it bunk can seldom resist a peep. Which reminds me. I wonder what the stars are saying today. It happens to be my birthday.

ledge of the Near East, the Far East and the entire African continent, partly for practical purposes and partly out of a devotion to pure science.

Administrative officials, business men, soldiers, pastors and missionaries have acquainted themselves at the School with linguistic and cultural conditions in their present or future spheres of activity, and so fitted themselves to be intelligent links between Britain and her Colonies.

The address made to King George V by the Chairman of the Government body at the formal opening of the School made it clear from the outset that the School of Oriental and African Studies was not intended to serve practical purposes alone. It stated that the School had been set up "to furnish the Capital of the Empire a meeting-ground and focus for scholars from the East of various nationalities, where, on their visits to this country, they may be assured of a sympathetic welcome and find at hand, if they desire them, opportunities for studies among those engaged in kindred pursuits."

THE School of Oriental and African Studies in London has developed, in fact, into such a meeting-ground and focus, both for scholars from the East and for students of all nations who wish to devote themselves to the study of oriental and African languages and conditions, as the steadily increasing numbers and diversity of its staff and students shows. It includes not only a number of Americans, but many Europeans; there were many Germans too, to be found there before World War II.

The spirit of understanding fostered in this truly world-embracing institution and broadcast throughout the world by its pupils, has certainly helped a great deal in tightening the bonds between Britain and the Colonial Empire, and in freeing Colonial administration from the conceptions which were still more or less prevalent in the times of which the late Rudyard Kipling wrote.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"I don't see why I should struggle for the next seven years to get a degree—you've got one, but you can't even work this algebra!"

Do it yourself

OPINION December 6, 1947. Interest in public issues is vigorous. Political decisions are important to each individual. And, in consequence, the great British school of citizenship hums with life. Study the issues at stake. Form your opinions. And learn to express them in public speech.

Two days later. The importance of the ability to speak was impressed upon me by Frau Bonen, of Marburg University, in August 1939. Passing groups of speakers on the Level, Brighton, she said: "Safety valves! If that were possible in Germany we should not be faced with the certainty of war." —Mrs. F. Cummings, Park-crescent, Brighton.

ONE of the mysteries of public speaking is that a bald-headed man on a bleak platform can hold an audience enthralled for an hour. Yet a great actor like Olivier or Gielgud, even with Shakespeare's lines, and aided by footlights and costume, would find a ten-minute speech too long and too dangerous.

What is the missing equation? The cynic might say that people go to the theatre to enjoy themselves. I can assure him that people go to political meetings for exactly the same reason.

Perhaps the difference is that a speech is personal, the outpourings of one's mind, whereas the actor is merely the mouthpiece and the interpreter of the author. Yet there are many points where the politician and the actor meet. Both have to satisfy the ear and the eye, and both have to master the technique before they can be successful.

First essential

THE first essential in public speaking is to keep the tone out of the throat and especially the adenoids. Any singer knows that the tone must come before the enunciation.

Sound travels upwards. Therefore it is no use dropping the end of every sentence into your boots. Hamlet's step-father says on his knees: "My words fly up, my thoughts remain below."

After 12 years in Parliament I am forced to the conclusion that with most public speakers their thoughts fly up but their words remain below.

Another point to remember is that words, even the shortest of them, consist of syllables. I heard one M.P. once say: "And that Mr Speaker is the SNOP-SIS of the SLUTION." And he had been to an expensive school in his youth. There is an ex-Minister at Westminster who reduces every vowel to a composite "ow." After five minutes the ear gives up trying to break it into phonetics.

The tone

I STRESS the matter of voice production because, strangely enough, the average public man thinks that there is no difference between talking and speaking, whereas they are as far apart as humming and sing-

ing. The trained speaker's quietest words can be heard throughout the Albert Hall because he knows how to float—or what singers call *think*—the tone.

Let us then leave this aspect with the following solemn thought. Tone is produced in the larynx by pressure of breathing and should travel upward through the empty spaces of the head (and even good politicians have those empty spaces), then to the bridge of the nose on to the hard palate and the teeth and then out of the mouth, the lips superimposing words on it as it flows.

So much for the ear. Now what about the eye? Few public speakers are beautiful, which is just as well, for their beauty would take our minds off their arguments. That is one reason why women, as a whole, are ineffective speakers. Their femininity is always intruding.

Nevertheless the man on the platform must satisfy the eye or it will become bored and look about for other distractions. For example, if a candidate places his hands on his hips and never moves them, the audience will begin to wonder what is the matter with him.

If he puts one hand in his pocket and never takes it out, the audience gets irritated.



and finally SIX DON'TS TO REMEMBER

DON'T start your speech without having a clear idea of how you are going to begin and how you will end.
DON'T use the word "finally" more than six times or the hopes that you have expended will turn to despair.
DON'T speak on a subject unless you know a lot more or a lot less about it than your audience. In the latter case your amateur opinion will prove interesting if it is fundamentally intelligent.
DON'T telescope three words into one.
DON'T tell your audience that you will deal with the subject from five aspects.
DON'T mumble.

This drug is too good to hold up

by CHAPMAN PINCHER

LONDON. OF the many hopes which have sustained tuberculosis sufferers none has seemed more substantial than the American drug streptomycin.

Minute quantities of this white mould—extract have cleared up advanced tuberculosis in hundreds of guinea pigs. Early U.S. trials of it in human cases were considered successful enough to warrant mass production of the drug.

But on the advice of the Medical Research Council British manufacturers held back. When streptomycin has been needed for urgent cases radio appeals have had to be made to the few laboratories holding a little of the drug imported from America.

Factory begun

Not until the council published its preliminary report of its own trials did the building of streptomycin plant get Government priority. Then a factory to mass-manufacture the drug was started at Ulverston, Lancs.

Meanwhile, the results of full-scale American trials have now just

been published. They were carried out by the U.S. Army and Navy, and more than 900 patients in 22 hospitals were involved.

I must stress that no cures are claimed. Recovered patients must stay healthy for four more years before the possibility of relapse can be discounted.

But the cautiously worded report of the trials credits streptomycin with the dramatic relief of several types of obstinate tubercular disease. On the drug's value against the chronic type of lung consumption it is equally definite.

X-ray pictures

The report adds: "The effect was rarely complete enough to describe as a cure; it does, however, in conjunction with bed-rest, clear a considerable proportion of exudative disease."

X-ray photographs were made of each case before and after treatment. The complete records were assessed by a jury of tuberculosis specialists who had taken no part in the tests. Most spectacular was the verdict passed on 13 cases of tubercular inflammation of the throat. "The ulcerations healed with amazing rapidity, some showing improvement within two weeks and all being healed within 90 days," states the report.

But more important were the effects of the drug on the commoner and more deadly "miliary" tuberculosis—a rapid invasion of the whole system by tubercle bacilli.

Trials

Of 27 acute cases treated with streptomycin only seven failed to respond. The rest showed rapid improvement, and eventually—according to X-ray evidence—complete clearing of all lung spots.

The jury decided that these results demanded the immediate adoption of streptomycin as the standard for the disease.

"We believe that the mortality rate of acute miliary tuberculosis will be definitely lowered," says the report.

The Medical Research Council is staging its own big trials.

Long before they are finished enough streptomycin to treat 900 patients a month will be available from the Ulverston factory.

I maintain that the Ministry of Health should sanction its immediate use in hospitals on the evidence of the U.S. trials.

* Exudative disease—the form of tuberculosis which produces fluid in the lungs.

JESTS AND JEERS

The 'New Look' covers a multitude of shins.

Economy is a way of spending money without getting any fun out of it.

The reason why it takes so long to accomplish anything in Hongkong is because too many people are content just to be bystanders.

When two women suddenly become friendly, the chances are some third woman has lost two friends.

"Shirts will be shorter this summer," says an advertisement in an Indian paper. Thereby hangs no tail.

When a man is generous to a fault, usually it's his own fault he's generous to.

In these days, parents not only worry how their children will turn out, but also when they will turn in.

The spinster social worker decided to call on the poor family who had a baby every year. "You should learn one of the methods of birth control," she told the mother. "That's all right for you," replied the woman. "But I'm married."

KALA AZAR IN SHANGHAI

Kala Azar, a severe and usually fatal Oriental disease prevalent in China, has stricken some 2,000,000 Chinese, the Shanghai Public Health Bureau said, but only 13 persons in Shanghai have been infected.

The Bureau said these 13 were infected with the disease before they removed there from North Kiangsu as refugees from the Communists.

The Bureau denied rumours that bubonic plague had broken out in Shanghai. Only smallpox has reached epidemic proportions. More than 130 persons have died from it. —Associated Press.

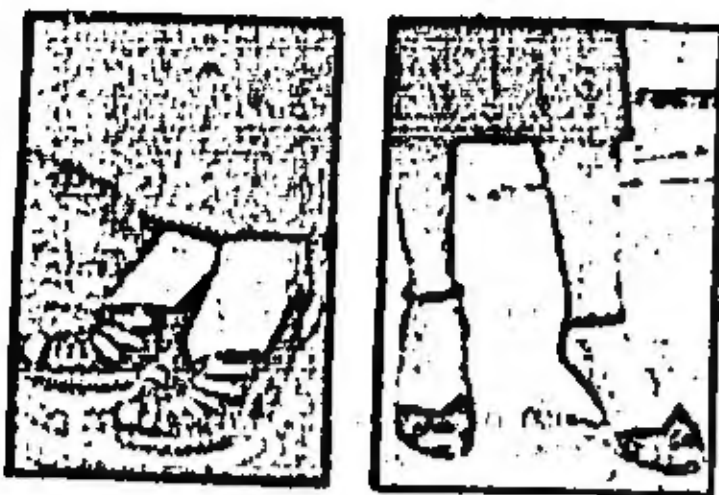
EVERY SATURDAY

WOMANSENSE

FULL-PAGE FEATURE

U.S. FASHION BATTLE ENDS IN VICTORY FOR SHORTER SKIRT NEW LOOK IS OLD ALREADY

In New York hemlines now 13 inches from the ground



From EVELYN WEBBER

NEW YORK. The "Battle of the Two Looks" has ended in America with victory for the shorter skirt. Despite the news from London that some designers have introduced

skirts 6in. from the floor, new hemlines here have jumped back to an officially stabilized 13in.—not far from the Old Look.

Heavy buying by department stores when the New Look was first shown is now showing unhappy results in the increasing number of New Look dresses being placed on sale. Even at greatly reduced prices (and no coupons) nobody is buying them.

"It always happens," said the buyer at one Fifth-avenue shop today. "As soon as the mass manufacturers begin copying a new style, everybody rushes to buy it."

NO LONGER FASHION

"Soon it isn't high fashion any more; just something people get tired of seeing."

"In the case of the New Look the end came quicker than we expected. I suppose it was because it was so revolutionary."



CHRISTIAN DIOR
He started it all

designers were showing 1948 clothes that were entirely Old Look.

"Now at the end of a couple of months of wearing her New Look clothes, the ordinary woman-in-the-street is finding herself loaded with a wardrobe which loudly proclaims almost the exact date it was bought."

Already the fashion magazines are pointing to the prediction made by Christian Dior, New Look originator, that it "will undergo a vast change when the spring comes."

London drops hemlines Lower . . . fashions for Spring unveiled



drawn by ROBB

LONDON has started the annual spring fashion jam-boree with a week of dress shows. Robb and I bring you today first reports of the Look that London is putting over for the spring.

Biggest news from the London shows is the longer-than-ever hem-

line. Most of the dresses were 11 inches from the ground—worn with fine black or smoke stockings.

Main outline of all the clothes is a modified New Look—unpadded shoulders, small waists, large hips.

The best retain the original Paris elegance.

HIGHSPTS: Pleated skirts using 12 yards of material . . . wide sleeves with a smaller sleeve inside . . . huge drop-pearl earrings . . . side panels hanging from waist to hem . . . jet buttons on wool suits matched with jet shoe buckles . . . muslin petticoats threaded with black velvet . . . head chokers tied with big moire bows.

1 SHORT nipped-waist jacket . . . full skirt padded round the hips . . . stiff taffeta petticoat . . . collar and cuffs of frilled muslin.

2 ANKLE-LENGTH coat . . . light waist and very full skirt . . . layered pockets bulge out the hip-line . . . gabardine boots.

3 LONG 1910 jacket . . . diagonal fastenings and sloped shoulders . . . tight straight skirt nearly to ankles . . . pearl-button suede boots.

ANNE EDWARDS

FASHION TREKKERS TROOP OFF TO PARIS



Scaffolding FOR THE NEW LOOK

By ANNE EDWARDS

THE PARIS SPRING SHOWS opened recently. The international glaucom squad of buyers and professional clothes-observers has moved in from London.

However much Paris tries to be different one thing it seems will be common to both capitals: you might call it "the scaffolding for the New Look." Both in Paris and London they will soon be selling "diverter sets" which mannequins are wearing at the shows. Robb has drawn them for you. On top of No. 1 goes:

No. 2. Hips: Thickening made of cottonwool is worn over each hip. Each piece is made separately and sewn to a band which ties round the waist.

No. 3. Waist: Narrow corset 42ins. deep. Made of elastic fabric, it's boned and worn over an ordinary bodice.

No. 4. Flared petticoat in taffeta-plain or cotton. Has fulls pleated or gathered round the hem. Some have a full sewn inside at the waist to emphasise the hip-line.

HERE she is—padded, boned, and filled—The New Look Girl.

She is fully feminine IF . . .



SHE risks her life "jumping" a bus, but worries far more about the effect on her last pair of nylons.



SHE comes up from the country to buy a hat to go with her new sports suit, and falls for a piece of nonsense.



SHE never knows how to dress for bad weather—either dresses for a fine day and looks bedraggled or for the North Pole and looks like a taxi-driver.



SHE congratulates herself on saving two shillings on a pair of gloves in the sales, though she's ruined her clothes in the scramble.

UN AGENCY SYMBOLISES RISING STATUS OF WOMEN

By HOMER METZ

Correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor

Lake Success. One of the lesser-publicised agencies of the United Nations has been working here quietly but efficiently.

It is the Commission on the Status of Women, a subsidiary of the Economic and Social Council, and it has the high aim of showing the world that the growing influence of women in modern life is an influence for peace and individual and international virtue.

The current session of the Status of Women Commission is its second, and its crowded agenda includes such items as the legal status and treatment of women, political rights of women, educational opportunities, economic rights, human rights and the prevention of discrimination on grounds of sex, problems relating to conflicts of law in fields of nationality, domicile, marriage, and divorce.

It also has included increased participation of qualified women in government both at the national level and in international organizations and conferences, influence of women on public opinion on equality between men and women, and appointment of regional committees for the investigation of social and legal disabilities of women.

LAUGHS AND DISDAIN When the Commission on the Status of Women was set up in February, 1946, it was greeted in many quarters either with laughter or cold disdain.

"There is still an inclination among many delegates and observers to regard it with something less than seriousness, but the earnest efforts of its members have silenced the laughter and curbed the disdain."

Whatever the Commission may lack in support, it at least has earned the respect of other branches of the UN and of the world organization as a whole.

Because of the nature of its aims and widely differing customs throughout the world, the Commission may not be able to achieve much in the way of concrete results for some time to come, but that it is helping to focus attention on the increased importance of women in the political and economic worlds cannot be gainsaid.

It is, moreover, clearing away much of the tangled underbrush that has handicapped women everywhere in their efforts to better themselves.

It has, for example, been pointed out that the Economic and Social Council approved nearly all the resolutions passed by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1947.

Some persons, recently declared Mrs. Bodil Begtrup of Denmark, last year's Chairman, have been impatient, thinking the Commission has not done enough. "The Commission understands these feelings," she added, "we too, are impatient."

Nevertheless, said Mrs. Begtrup, millions of women have been granted new political and economic rights because of the stimulus provided by the Commission.

One of the Commission's immediate objectives is to become a policy-making agency in assisting all the different organs of the UN, whenever a question concerning the status of women is raised within their competence.

15 NATIONS REPRESENTED

Fifteen nations are represented on the Commission—Australia, Belgium, Russia, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, India, Mexico, Syria, Turkey, Russia, Britain, United States, France, Guatemala, and Venezuela.

At its first session in 1946, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following set of principles:

"1. Freedom and equality are essential to human development and whereas woman is as much a human being as man and, therefore, entitled to share with him."

"2. Well-being and progress of society depend on the extent to which both men and women are able to develop their full personality and are cognizant of their responsibilities to themselves and to each other."

"3. Woman has thus a definite role to play in the building of a free, healthy, prosperous, and moral society and that she can fulfil this obligation only as a free and responsible member."

"4. Women shall take an active part in the fight for the full elimination of the racial, religious, and for international co-operation directed to the establishment of a democratic peace among the peoples of the world and for the prevention of a new aggression."

"5. In order to achieve this goal, the purpose of the Commission is to raise the status of women, irrespective of their nationality, race, language, or religion, to equality with men in all fields of human enterprise, and to eliminate all discrimination against women in provisions of statutory law and under maxims or rules or interpretations of customary law."

In spite of discouragement and lack of support, the Commission on the Status of Women has not faltered in its adherence to these principles.

Ideas for a

Wedding Buffet

By GEORGIE RODGERS

Principal, Good Housekeeping School of Cookery.

THE entertaining of friends after the ceremony can be a big headache.

Here are some ideas for an attractive buffet that will serve equally well for a birthday or other party. All the items can be prepared well in advance, but if you have any help in the kitchen some of the savouries could be served hot. Sandwiches will keep fresh provided you wrap them in greaseproof paper, then a damp tea-cloth and keep them in a cool place.

Fillings for sandwiches.—You can buy a number of sandwich spreads, meat and fish pastes ready for use, or make up any of the following:

Shredded lettuce, grated carrot and mayonnaise;

Grated cheese and chutney;

Diced beetroot and celery and mayonnaise;

Mushrooms finely chopped and fried;

Prawns and shrimps mixed with a little white sauce;

Sliced salmon or liver sausage;

Cream cheese and chopped walnuts or capers;

Scrambled egg and anchovy essence.

If there are to be any children at the party they usually prefer sweet fillings such as jam, jelly, chocolate spreads or chopped dates.

ANCHOVY TWIRLS

Scraps of pastry, 1 tin anchovy fillets.

ROLL out the pastry thinly into a strip about 2 inches wide, and cut into fingers about 1/4 inch wide. Drain the anchovies well, then lay a fillet along each strip of pastry and twist the two together, nipping well together at the ends. Place on a greased baking sheet and brush over with beaten egg or milk. Bake for 10 minutes in a hot oven. Reg. 6 or 400 deg. F. Remove carefully as the twirls are very fragile when hot, and serve garnished with cress.

GAME FLAN

4oz. pastry, 1/2 pint aspic jelly, remains of chicken or white meat of rabbit, 2 cooked mushrooms.

LINE a flan ring or sandwich tin with pastry and bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes. Fill with the minced remains of any poultry and garnish with slices of cooked mushroom. Glaze with aspic jelly and stand in a cool larder until required. Serve the flan cut through into portions.



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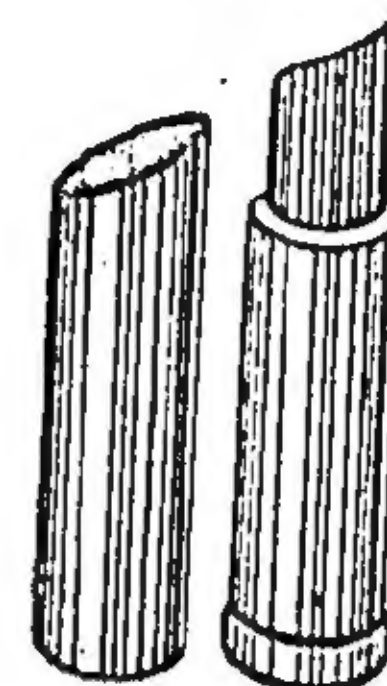
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Stillman's Freckle Cream contains certain ingredients which act as a temporary "black-out" against the formation of pigment. Next it favors the retention of fat globules in the skin which helps to smooth out lines and creases.

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POWER WITHOUT THE SWORD

of the first news passes, an appraisal must now be made of one of the world's half-dozen most important men . . .

by
JAMES CAMERON

He was 78; very old for an Indian. He was tough; the conventional picture of a bowed and skinny ascetic did no justice to that smooth and nimble brown frame.

Self-indulgence

THAT scrupulous personal honesty of an earlier day once forced him to admit that in certain circumstances even fasting could become a self-indulgence. By the same token it was clear he could enjoy jail, it punctuated a monotonously busy life with islands of privacy. Like Nehru, he wrote oceans of literature in prison.

It was obvious he could always get out of jail when he wished. The threat of a fast would be enough; the British could not risk Gandhi dying of starvation on their hands. But he never exploited that threat for himself; jail was far too valuable for him.

The weapon

IT was perhaps Gandhi's biggest contribution to language—it means, vaguely, "the force of righteousness"; eventually it came to mean "non-co-operation," "passive resistance."

Here was Indian nationalism's most potent weapon. Troops who could handle a shrilling armed mob were helpless against dark multitudes who stood wordlessly against the charge, allowed their heads to be beaten in, accepted death or injury without a cry, and were silently replaced by more.

It is fair to say that only Gandhi could have imposed Satyagraha on a fiercely resentful bitter people. It worked.

Then came 1930 and a new rebellion, symbolised by the famous Salt March to Dandi. Salt was a Government monopoly, its tax was hard on the poor.

Gandhi—choosing, as always, the simple symbol for the complex issue—led his march to the source of salt, the ocean. Steadily, on foot, he crossed the enormous country, volunteers fell in; very soon India was alight from Karachi to the Bay of Bengal.

Gandhi reached the sea, lifted a handful of brine to his lips, India cheered—but the tax remained.

He went to London for the Round Table Conference of 1932. London smiled a little at the bizarre figure in the dhoti, who would break up any committee by squatting down to prayer halfway through, if it were time for prayer—or for a diversion.

India, but to unite her. His death may do what his life could not—that, or signal a disaster past accounting.

Who could compress the life and character of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi into a handful of words? He did his best with—self-analysis, self-revelation; no living mind ever commended so publicly and frankly with his soul for strictly matter-of-fact ends.

The ends were politics. Everything in life was politics, from his Cabinets at sunrise to his evening prayers, from the milk of his goats to the 5s. tin watch he slung at his waist. Politics equalled Faith plus Expediency.

SECTION DELMER'S NEWSMAP

Moscow appoints watchdog for Dimitrov

MY European parish has been fairly well-behaved. No one has threatened anyone else with war.

No one answered any "challenges." Moscow's Literary Gazette front-paged a fake picture of President Truman and fellow-revellers pouring whisky down a turkey's throat to make it drunk. But Ambassador Bodell-Smith this time did not bother to send his usual note of protest.

Even a diplomatic bombshell was a disclaimer—Pravda's report to Bulgaria's Georgi Dimitrov for talking out of school about plans for a Balkan federation.

Georgi certainly got a rocket—just when he was feeling really on top of the world after his long and intimate holiday with the boss at Sochi, Stalin's Crimean winter palace.

A few hours after Dimitrov's newspaper, Fatherland Front, had splashed his federation speech a furious Moscow was on the line.

Sofia, thoroughly shaken, cabled its foreign representatives to disregard all commentaries on the Bulgaro-Rumanian treaty, and confine themselves strictly to what was in the text. Dimitrov himself said he'd never said it.

His shadow

MORE important even than the rocket was the revolution in the Bulgarian Politburo—the real rulers of the country. By Moscow's orders its size was cut down by half, from 14 to seven.

And of the seven members of the new Politburo, behold five are Soviet citizens.

Dimitrov is its nominal head as secretary-general. But he has been given an "adviser"—General George Danyanov, late of the Soviet Army, and one of the Soviet commanders during the siege of Leningrad.

Danyanov is a Soviet citizen as well as a Bulgarian citizen. He has the real power. It will be he in future who pushes Moscow's wishes and instructions to Dimitrov. And it is Danyanov who commands the army, the militia, the secret police, and the secret prisons. It is he who orders the arrests.

The speech which has cost Dimitrov so much was his tenth in five days. He made it at an extremely liquid Press reception in the dining car which was carrying him back from Bucharest to Sofia.

Apart from his gaffe about the Balkan federation Dimitrov revealed Communist plans for France.

"In France," he said, "we shall bring about the unification of the Communist and Socialist Parties by causing a split in the Socialist Party."

He went on: "The old Socialists led by Blum and Ramadier, who are servants of American imperialism, will secede. And then the basic part of the French Socialist Party which is healthy will unite with the French Communist Party."

Dimitrov also declared that it was the Communist Party's intention to absorb the Socialist Party in Czechoslovakia. This was in direct contradiction of Czechoslovakia's Communist Premier Gottwald, who had publicly disclaimed any such plan.

Georgi is due to visit Warsaw and Prague shortly. I wonder whether General Danyanov will be allowed to let him go.

★ Outsiders? ★

A WEAKNESS of our Foreign Service is the tendency of diplomats to confine their contacts to the official and social circles of the countries to which they are accredited.

Diplomats fear that if they meet Opposition leaders they may be suspected of intrigue.

But if it were part of our envoys' normal routine to see Opposition leaders as well as Cabinet Ministers and under-secretaries, such meetings would cease to arouse suspicion.

In Teheran I spent two hours with Rustan, the chief of the Left-wing trade unions, and six of his top associates. Neither Rustan nor any of the other men present had ever met and talked things over with the Labour attaché of the British Embassy. All said they would be delighted to meet him.

In Bagdad I spent an evening with Opposition leaders. None of these men had met anyone from the British Embassy for the past six months.

Now one of them, Mohammed Kubba, leader of the Independence Party, has become Minister of Supply in the new Cabinet, and no doubt our representatives will be entertaining him.

Had they met him before, the Opposition revolt against the new Anglo-Iraq treaty would have caused less surprise in Whitehall.

Sore points

ONE of the Iraqis' bitterest complaints was that the Anglo-Iraq treaty gives Britain first refusal of

any jobs being offered to foreigners in the Iraq State service.

Iraqis declare that this clause is an intolerable limitation of their sovereignty. They object furthermore that the British experts and technicians appointed—

1. Are paid vastly bigger salaries than their Iraqi colleagues.

2. Are more concerned with the interests of Britain than those of Iraq.

3. Some have no apparent qualification for their jobs.

One of the cases they cited to me was that of an ex-officer who wanted to stay in Iraq when his Army service ended. He was found a highly-paid job in a State service for which he claimed no previous experience whatever.

★ False alarm ★



BOGEY is the eagle on the new Austrian coins pictured here.

Has he gone Communist? He has dropped the Nazi swastika he held on the post-Anschluss coins. Instead he now clutches a sickle with his right claw and a hammer in his left. He has only to click his heels to make the Soviet Emblem.

But the bird is no Bolshevik all the same. Long before Nazis or Russians occupied Austria the republican eagle clutched his hammer and sickle.

He is just a reactionary old bird harking back to the past.

★ Mixed grill ★

BRITISH firms whose factories and coal mines have been nationalised in Czechoslovakia are still waiting for the Czechs to pay compensation. But the Czechs put up one pretext after another to avoid payment.

Now these firms have received a nine-page document asking them to declare their assets for the Czech capital levy. Among assets subject to the levy—30 percent of the value—are "claims to compensation for nationalised property."

On the back page of the document is an invitation. "Czechoslovakia," it says, "is inviting you. Will you eat and drink well? Try our ham, our Pilsen beer, our cheese, fruit and the Czech cuisine! Are you interested in industry? Visit our foundries and coal mines, our industrial enterprises, see our products of glass, porcelain, leather and wood, our machines, textiles and stationery."

In And Out of Parliament

By Ernest Thurtle, M.P.

MR BEVIN'S foreign affairs speech did not stir the Commons to enthusiasm, yet it would be unfair to blame him for that.

The story he had to tell was essentially one of diplomatic defeat. Defeat due in the main to Russian obstruction, certainly, but nevertheless defeat, and that never arouses enthusiasm. Moreover, the speech was long, it was read, and it was not noticeably illumined by the flashing phrase.

YET the facts were all there, stated plainly and firmly. They indicated action, which is what the country wants.

A determination to have done with the futile past and to take prompt action to build on the ruin of disappointed hopes meets the prevailing mood.

A GENIAL-LOOKING elder statesman, grave and sparkling by turns, Mr Churchill returned from North Africa for this debate at the top of his form.

To the Government's former attitude towards Russia he offered the fullest support, and he rejoiced at the declared intentions to seek a united Western Europe.

Now and again he had members reading with amusement at some of his quips ("Leave it to history: I am writing it"), but for the most part matter and manner were grave, and likewise was the mood of his audience.

Especially was this so when he discussed the disquieting future, with all its grim possibilities looming ahead.

Some at least who listened could not help remembering how they had heard that same voice sounding notes of warning before civilisation's last blood-bath.

ECONOMIC necessity (let us confess it) has made us all believers in Colonial development now.

This was made manifest again when the Commons discussed and passed the Overseas Resources Development Bill.

There were differences on the legislative details, but none on the broad purpose of the measure.

So it was that we had the Bill eleven an unopposed third reading, not only with the blessing of the Colonial Secretary and the Minister of Food, but also with warm commendation from ex-Colonial Secretary Oliver Stanley, speaking from the Opposition front bench.

SCOPE for the new enterprise is truly enormous.

Results are not likely to be rapid, for the difficulties are great, but in due time immense advantages should accrue from the project to the Colonial peoples, to Britain, and in the world as a whole.

Lord Trefgarne (sometime Garro-Jones, M.P.) is to head the Development Corporation. Energetic and determined, and backed by a good team, his ambition will be to set a hot pace of progress.

It cannot be too hot for the British people.

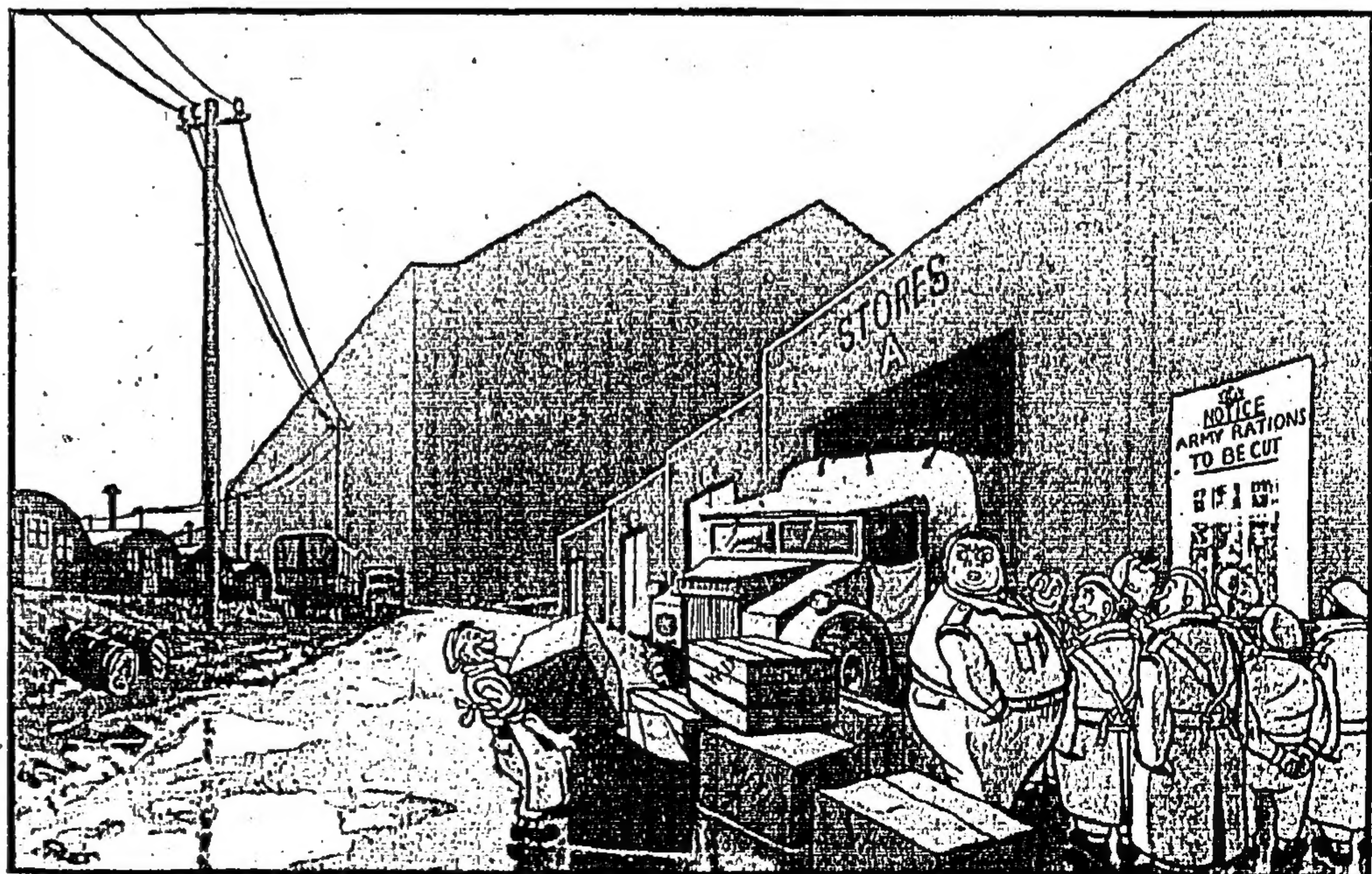
CAPTURED documents on Nazi-Soviet relations, just published by the American State Department, are vastly revealing.

Russia, we learn, agreed with Hitler, in the days of seeming Nazi triumph that Britain and the U.S.A. should be shut out of Europe, Asia and Africa.

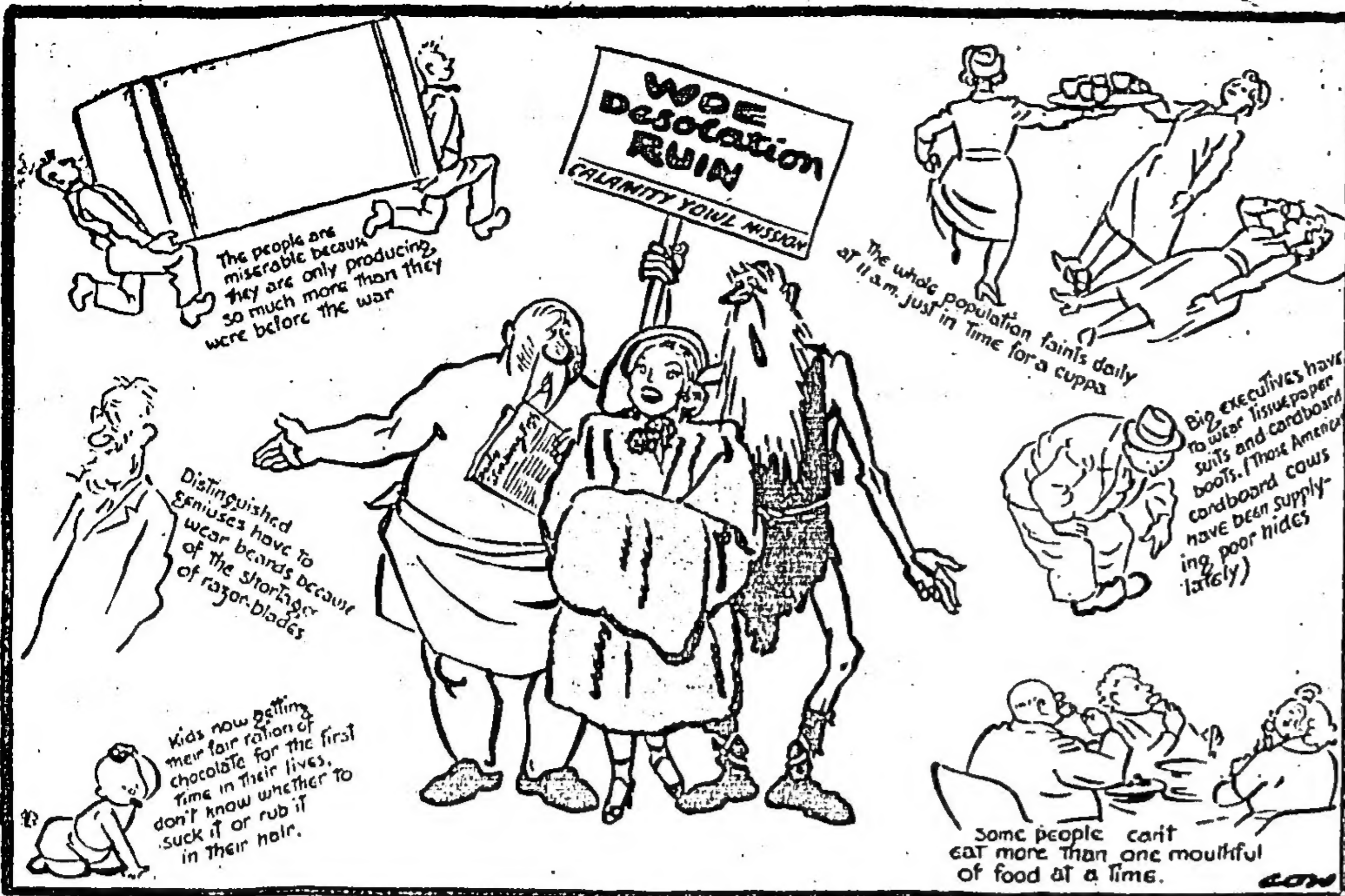
Details are given of the immense material aid received by the Nazis from Russia during the period our country was fighting for its life.

But perhaps the document that gives rise to the most bitter feelings is the telegram sent by the German Ambassador in Moscow, reporting to Berlin how Mr Molotov had expressed his warm congratulations to the Nazi Government on "the splendid success of the German armed forces."

This after France had been crushed and our army driven from Dunkirk!



"All members of H.M. Forces who wish to continue marching on their stummicks must in future dine out at the Ritz."



WHO TOLD LORETTA?

(Copyright in All Countries)

DRAMAS OF THE LAW COURTS

The end of the amazing Horatio Bottomley

Robbed the poor who trusted him

by A. E. BOWKER
who was confidential clerk to SIR EDWARD MARSHALL HALL, K.C., the famous defence counsel.

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, supreme egotist, was as pompous as he was portly. He had the saving grace of a keen sense of humour.

Possessed of great personal charm, and a convincing tongue, Bigland published a pamphlet, "What Bottomley did for Britain during the War."

Marshall Hall had a great respect for his abilities as a lawyer, and at one of his earliest meetings, when Bottomley was consulting him about his defence in a lottery charge in connection with a paper called the Sun, Marshall Hall turned to his would-be client and said: "There's only one counsel who will do you justice in this case."

"Let's leave his name," said Bottomley promptly. "Who is he?"

"Yourself," was the reply, and there began that intriguing and systematic campaign of legal representation which proved so successful over the ensuing years.

Bottomley, taking full advantage of the greater licence permitted to a person appearing on his own behalf, would conduct his own case, backed by all the skill and finesse of Marshall Hall's subtle mind.

Thus, you would have the amusing spectacle of Marshall Hall rising to speak after Bottomley, solemnly beginning: "Following my unlearned leader... and so on."

Spotted weakness

It was young Mr Douglas Hogg (now Lord Hailsham) who spotted the weakness of issuing writs against both Bottomley and the publishers, and plaintiffs started to issue them against the publishers only; by that means Bottomley could only be called as a witness, and his "in person" advantages were reduced to nil.

It was fun while it lasted, but there was to come a time when Bottomley was to tempt Fate too far.

It was the more tragic because during the 1914 war Bottomley had become a figure who stood for all that was patriotic and to the advantage of the men who had fought for the country.

Certainly the average working man and woman and the Service man looked upon him as their champion.

His final downfall was due to one Reuben Bigland, who died in February last year at the age of 85. Soon after 1918

Bigland published a pamphlet, "What Bottomley did for Britain during the War."

The inside pages were blank! That was only the first of a series of pamphlets which Bigland—himself a Birmingham printer—published to try to get Bottomley to take him to court.

Paid for speeches

HE disclosed that Bottomley had been paid £24,000 for making recruiting speeches during the war, and that between the years 1918-21 he had laid his hands on some £1,300,000 of public money.

Bigland frankly admitted that in a certain Bond draw he had improperly been made the "winner" of £1,000.

It was a relentless and vengeful pursuit of Bottomley carried out by Reuben Bigland, yet absolutely unavailing until Bottomley launched his notorious Victory Bond Club, which took in some 700,000.

Again another Bigland pamphlet, in which he declared:—

"The British Government has allowed one of the greatest crooks ever born to issue as £1 shares nearly 1,000,000 of these pieces of common blue paper... with no trustees—no auditors."

At length Bottomley was gounded into bringing proceedings for criminal libel against Bigland.

After a lengthy hearing at the police court Bigland was committed for trial at the Old Bailey, the time being fixed after some delay, caused by Bigland putting in a plea of justification.

Bottomley came to us, and we entered upon what was to be our last appearance on his behalf.

On the morning of the trial, Mr Comyns-Carr, who was defending Bigland, came to see Marshall Hall. He was looking rather serious, and had with him a bundle of documents.

These he showed to Marshall Hall, who was so shocked at what he read that he dashed off straight away to the Old Bailey to see Bottomley.

"We are offering no evidence," he told that worthy. "It's the only course to take. And there's nothing you can do about it."



I shall not forget the look on Bottomley's face as he tried to bluster a bit, but Marshall Hall was having no nonsense, and told him bluntly:—

"Either you take my advice and offer no evidence, or I withdraw from the case. If you do what I tell you, I'll do whatever I can to help you, but you dare not go into the witness-box."

Bottomley could see that he was beaten, and that he was near the end of his run.

I can see his face now, as, turning to Marshall Hall, all the bluster departed and with a look of pathetic appeal in his eyes, he said: "But then they will prosecute me."

"That I fear, is inevitable," was the reply.

Bottomley agreed in the end that it would be futile to go on with the case against Bigland, and on that January morning in 1922 Marshall Hall sprang one of his greatest surprises on the court when, with Bottomley sitting at the solicitors' table directly in front of counsel, he rose and asked for an adjournment of the case.

In Receivers' hands

HE explained that the whole of the books of the Victory Bond Club—concerning which the libel had been published—together with books and documents of other concerns in which Mr. Bottomley was concerned, were in the hands of the Receivers, and he required access to these documents and books, as it

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Listowel's Visit To Hongkong

BY "CANDIDUS"

ACCORDING to Lord Listowel, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, who will shortly visit Hongkong, the problem here is "acute and difficult in many respects."

Once again, a statement by a British Government Minister reveals a total lack of understanding or knowledge as to what exactly is Hongkong. It is good, however, to know that such an important personage intends to seek first-hand information, and it is to be hoped that the information gained will serve some useful purpose in enlightening the British Government as to the importance of, and necessity for, Hongkong.

It can be said that in spite of many handicaps, mostly governmental, Hongkong progressed amazingly in its first century, and has set an example to the world in general and China in particular. Its primary role is that of fostering trade between China and the rest of the world, and that the Colony has successfully filled that role none can deny.

Furthermore, it demonstrates the best that Western culture has to offer, and above all sets an example in sound government and administration. Freedom of speech is as jealously upheld

here as in any other enlightened part of the world, and citizens of all races and creeds are free to come and go and enjoy the protection of British laws which make no distinctions.

It is only natural that comparisons should be made between this Colony and China, but it is regrettable that the chaotic state of our great neighbour should present such an obstacle in fostering mutual friendship and prosperity. The American Ambassador spared no words in condemning the extreme reactionaries and extreme radicals who, regardless of the suffering of the people, add fuel and yet more fuel to the commotion and disorder, which not only disunite the masses but add to their misery.

It is generally accepted, and rightly so, that it is the agitators and war-makers who, from time to time, cast their jealous and envious eyes towards Hongkong. What a piteous this Colony would make for China's "squeeze" and racket kings! All the good secured in a century of order and enterprise would vanish almost overnight, and the light of progress be extinguished.

IF China would endeavour to emulate the shining example of Hongkong, she would soon be on the road to happiness and prosperity. As it is, she is virtually bankrupt; her currency is almost a fantastic myth, and she is fast losing her position as a great and enlightened Power. Her friends are still anxious to assist her out of the quagmire into which she has almost deliberately stumbled, but for some unaccountable reason she seems to prefer to spurn such offers and continue blindly to stumble backward and yet deeper into adversity.

Those who appreciate China's troubles should also appreciate Hongkong's virtues, and leave no stone unturned in making this Colony an even greater and better example of what can be achieved by honesty of purpose and vision.

NEGRO GIRL WINS HER CASE

An American Negro girl has won the right to train as a lawyer, from which she had been barred because of her colour.

The Oklahoma State University was, in effect, directed by a Supreme Court order to admit her, despite a State law forbidding Negroes to attend "white" schools.

The girl, Ada Lois Sipuel, a graduate of Langston, Oklahoma's Negro university, applied for admission to the State university two years ago.

The court's unsigned recorded opinion was that the State must provide the girl with legal education.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

THE Filthistan Trio were passed to a higher official, who asked them to state what it was they wanted as shortly as possible.

They replied, reasonably enough, that they wanted a plank in order to play secasaw in hotel vestibules and other places. The official then asked them if they had anything to do with the Friends of Asia League or the Society for Cultural Friendship with the New Mongolia. Of this word, the official then said, he didn't see why they needed a plank to play leapfrog. This summoned the three gentlemen, who shouted, "But what is leapfrog?" "Who?" said the official. "Leapfrog," said the Persians. "Is it your English word for secasaw?" "What's secasaw got to do with it?" asked the official. So another deadlock set in.

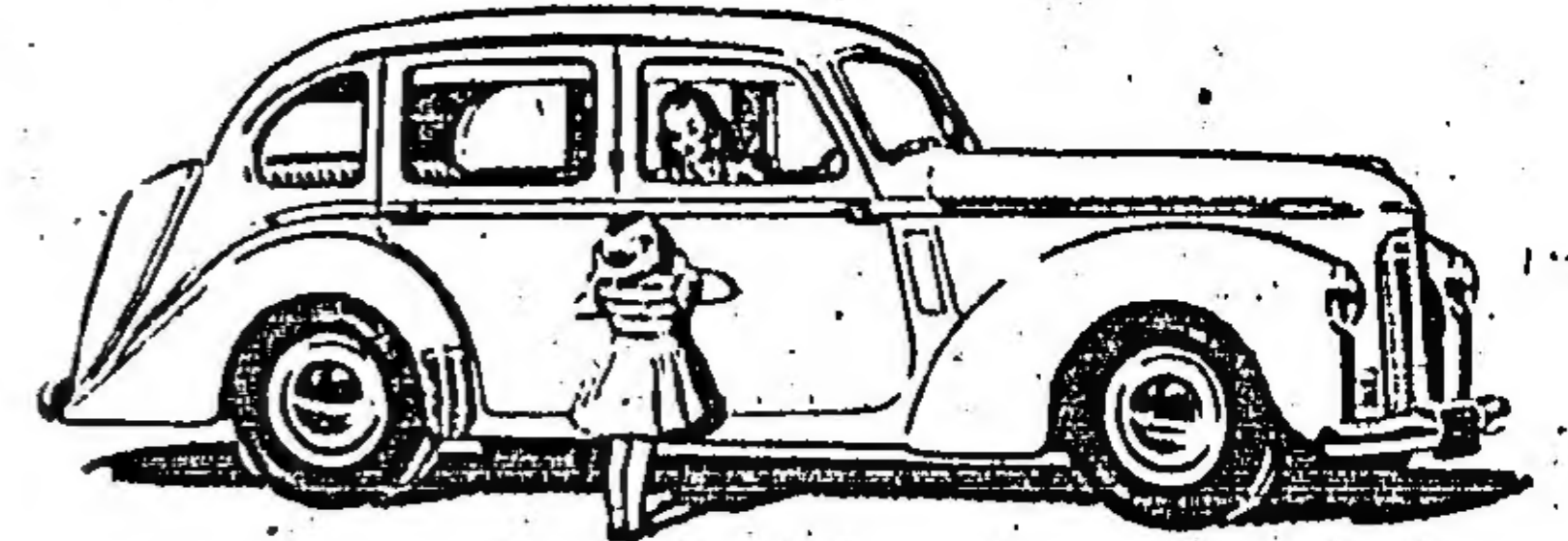
Still getting nowhere
A STILL higher official then took over, a breezy fool. "Now," said he, "what's all this about leapfrog? What's the trouble?"

Patiently the three Persians explained what they wanted. "Ah, yes," said the official, "but in England, you know, leapfrog and secasaw are quite different things. Adults don't play secasaw." "We are not adults, we are Persians," said Kazubuh, "and we never hear of leapfrog, no yes." "That's good," said the official, "but I doubt if we can allot any wood for a game like that. Can't you do without a plank?" "O sir," said Ashura, "none but a mighty magician can play secasaw without a plank, for there is naught for the players to go see and to go saw upon but the empty air." "Very sorry," said the official, "but leapfrog isn't secasaw, you know." And the disconsolate Persians were shown out.

Second apology
It appears that the words "gap in an egg" were correct, after all. The substitution of "gap in a hedge" completely changes the sense of the passage.

Twenty Years of Uproar

I REMEMBER an occasion, when Blotow was singing Tristan and Isolde. A busybody filled the cup from which the love-potion was drunk with something more powerful than the usual beer. The German language, thick enough to begin with, grew thicker, until a cry of "Geschosschschschschsch!" rang out, to be answered by "Nschosschgeschschschschsch!"

Tailpiece
He drops so casually into the aria that one has no sense of drama. (Music critic.)
That is exactly what the cook said about the policeman.

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U.S. Apprehension Over Jap Textile Revival

The beginnings of revival in Japanese textile production have caused apprehension in the United States cotton industry, reports Associated Press. Despite assurances that Japan's output cannot reach prewar levels for years to come, American textile circles fear the threat of imported Japanese cotton goods.

American manufacturers are worried not only for the domestic market, but also for their world export markets.

This month, reports of United States Government plans to permit the import of textiles brought vigorous protests from cotton circles.

Through imports of Japanese textiles, the U.S. Government hopes to provide Japan with dollar income with which to buy raw cotton. It is hoped to speed up recovery of Japan's economy and reduce the burden of American expenditure.

Experts like William H. Hock, formerly a high official of the textile branch of the military occupation forces, recently said it would take Japan 10 to 20 years to regain its former textile position.

But American industry sources remember vividly what happened in the 1930's. From an initial import total of 1,000,000 yards in 1933, Japan managed to increase exports to the United States 500,000,000 yards by 1937.

Export Markets Lost

During the same period, normal American export markets were being lost to low price Japanese competition.

Already the first signs of Japanese postwar penetration in world markets have been noted, in textile circles. American exporters are protesting that recent offers of Japanese print cloths resulted in cancellation of business already concluded with the Belgian Congo.

The Japanese product was sold at prices below those of comparable American goods.

Domestically, textile sources are fearful that even with limited quantities, Japanese textiles could undercut American products. Lower priced goods, industry sources said, on only a few types of textiles, could seriously imperil the economic position of the American textile industry and its workers.

"The current threat to American producers cannot be over-estimated," said the New York Journal of Commerce.

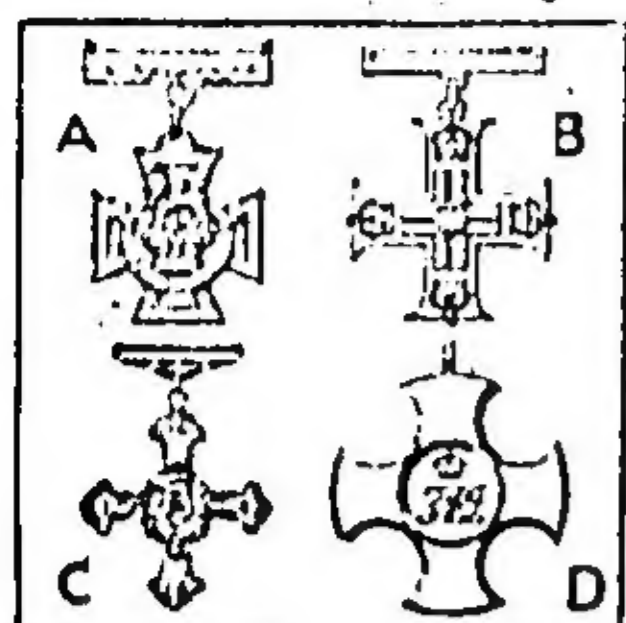
Other Considerations

Industry sources said it was reported that the U.S. Government was planning to permit the import of 80,000,000 yards annually. By the middle of this month, however, protests had brought a delay in putting into effect the government programme.—Associated Press

Are You Sure?

Answers on Page 10

1. "Yes, We Have No Bananas" was the song hit of 1917, 1923, 1929, 1933, 1937.
2. Which one of these words was left to us by famous pilgrims—
Gallop, trot, canter, lope?
3. To make a fillip you would use—
Sneak and onions, finger and thumb, fret-saw, lemon squeezer?



4. Can you identify these decorations? They are the—
V.C., G.M., M.C., D.F.C., M.M., D.S.C., G.C., A.F.C., D.S.O.
5. Which of these Ministers fill today the same offices to which they were appointed in 1945—
Sir Stafford Cripps, Mr. A. V. Alexander, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Viscount Addison, Mr. G. Tomlinson?
6. The original Leicester-square is at—
Fenchurch in Kent, Leicester, London?
7. Nominations for appointments to Church of England bishoprics are made by—
The King, Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of London, Prime Minister?
8. The first notable person to be killed in a railway accident was—
Admiral, bishop, M.P., general?
9. One of these classical musicians also writes popular dance music—
Mozart, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Lippmann?
10. The terms bully, good 'un, pepperbox, and black-guard are all used in—
Backgammon, fencing, chess, hockey?

Irving Berlin Decorated

Irving Berlin, dean of American song writers, was recently decorated with the cross of Knight of the French Legion of Honour for achievements in music.

The cross was pinned on his lapel by Alexandre De Mazancourt, French Consul in Los Angeles.—Associated Press.

POCKET CARTOON

by OSBERT LANCASTER



"When daddy says 'No' he means 'No'—and calling him a pocket Molotov won't make him change his mind."

The Old Folk—by JAMES BARTLETT

Loneliness makes life so hard

LONDON.

THAT'S the happiest story I've seen in the newspaper for years," said the man beside me in the train. He pointed to a news item headed "Good Neighbours." It reported that:—
Houses on a new Daventry housing estate are to alternate with bungalows so that: Old people in the BUNGALOWS will have young people in the HOUSES to run errands.

In these eight lines Mr Ronald Shaw, himself an old-age pensioner from Watford, recognised an unusual awareness of a problem which seldom finds its way into the headlines—the problem of making life happy for the old folk.

He was surprised when I told him that that week six governors of the new National Corporation for the Care of Old People would meet for the first time to plan how they can best spend £500,000 in the next few years.

Their task directly affects one in every seven of our population. We have sufficient elderly people in this country to merit one day a week as Old People's Day, devoted to their interests.

There are 5,500,000 elderly people—men over 65 and women over 60. Perhaps they are too quiet about themselves. Even many old people who live alone with only 25s. a week retirement pension make little complaint.

LIVES ALONE

MR GEORGE WATSON, 69-year-old retired builder's foreman, whom I met in Lincoln's Inn-fields feeding the sparrows, is one of them.

A widower, he lives alone at St Pancras, visited by his married daughter at week-ends. Otherwise he does his own shopping, looks after himself. This is how he spends his 25s. a week. ("I brought up a family on that much before 1914.")

	s.	d.
Rent	7	0
Fuel and light	2	6
Rationed goods	2	1
Points goods	1	9
Meat	1	2
Bread (3 loaves)	1	10
Milk (2 pints)	0	9
Vegetables	2	0
Fish	0	8
Matches, soap, etc.	1	0
	£1	0 0½

This leaves him 5s. 11½d., which goes partly in fares and live half-pints of beer.

He is now waiting, like so many pensioners, for the cheap tobacco concession. He does not smoke. Never has, but he says "I can't see how I could, even if I wanted to."

But Mr Watson thought I was wrong to talk about money. Like most old people, he has an independent mind, even if he has not independent means. He said: "It's not

money I miss. It's having somebody to talk to."

The problem is as simple—and as difficult—as that.

ONE IRONY

Loneliness, then, might be the main consideration of the new National Corporation. For two-thirds of the old people there is still family life. An irony of the housing shortage is that many old folk still have the company of married sons or daughters who normally would be living somewhere else.

This might cause shorter tempers, but it means longer life. Old people live longer and more happily in company than when they are alone.

That is why more than 200 agencies dealing with old people's care aim at bringing the lonely together. Several developments in the last year or two merit the notice of the new Corporation and its £500,000:—

1. Darby and Joan Clubs as daily meeting places for over-65's—as at Streatham, S.W.
2. Residential Clubs (not "homes") for middle-class old people who pay £2 to £2 10s. a week to live in.
3. Special old people's bungalows in normal housing estates, like that at Daventry.
4. Rest Homes which provide short-stay accommodation for old people normally living with relatives, as at Highgate.

SIMPLE NEEDS

LACK of money undoubtedly makes many old people keener to themselves, though a Nuffield Foundation survey last year suggests that "present pension rates probably cover all the daily necessities of life."

But what monotony to live only with necessities! Why should one in seven of us, after a lifetime of work, have to hesitate over such pleasures as the occasional high tea, the afternoon cinema, the evening smoke, or the letter which demands a precious 2½d. in stamps.

These are some of the simple needs the pensioners hope will be remembered when the Corporation for the Care of Old People meets. But the deepest thoughts of the old folk are not for the half a million pounds. All they wish for is somebody friendly who will call in regularly like a good neighbour and say: "Hallo, how are you today?"

The SNAPSHOT GUILD

BLACK AGAINST THE SKY



Silhouettes such as this lend spice to your album, tell a story as skillfully as more customary shots.

LONG before photography became common, William Cowper tossed off his famous quote: "Variety's the very spice of life." But, to paraphrase the old saw, variety is also the

spice of albums. An album in which all the pictures are similar leaves much to be desired.

So why not try something new? Why not cash in on the low, slanting sunlight of late afternoon? For there is no better time than this to make silhouettes outdoors.

Quite simply, a silhouette is merely a black shape outlined against the light. In most snapshots we try to have the light falling on the side of the subject so that the camera is aimed at it. In making silhouettes we reverse this process. The light is behind the subject and we picture the shadow side.

When the sun is low it is possible sometimes to place the subject directly between the camera and the setting sun. When the sun is somewhat higher, aim a little away from the sun so that it does not shine straight into the camera lens. Shoot from a low position and place your subject on a slight rise.

Recommended exposures will vary, of course, with the light intensity. Where the sun is just above the horizon and the sky is partially clouded, exposure of 1/25 at f/10 should produce good results. If the sun is somewhat higher, a shorter exposure is recommended. If you're one of the growing legion of photographers who do your own photo-finishing, develop your silhouette pictures fully and print them on contrasty paper.

One thing to remember in pictures of this sort—composition is very important. The arrangement of your subject must be pictorial since there will be little detail interest. Today's picture, with its homing hunters silhouetted, provides a good example. The arrangement of the figures on the crest of the hill, framed by the overhanging branch of the tree, tells its own story and makes a pleasing picture in black against the sky.

John van Guilder

CHECKED 2,000 FOR SHOPLIFT

By repeating one sentence 2,000 times daily Mr William Stubbs has turned himself into the most diplomatic man in London.

The sentence was: "Would you mind showing me your bill, please?" and Mr Stubbs says to the 2,000 women who crowd into Fenwick's dress-shop in New Bond-street in search of bargains daily.

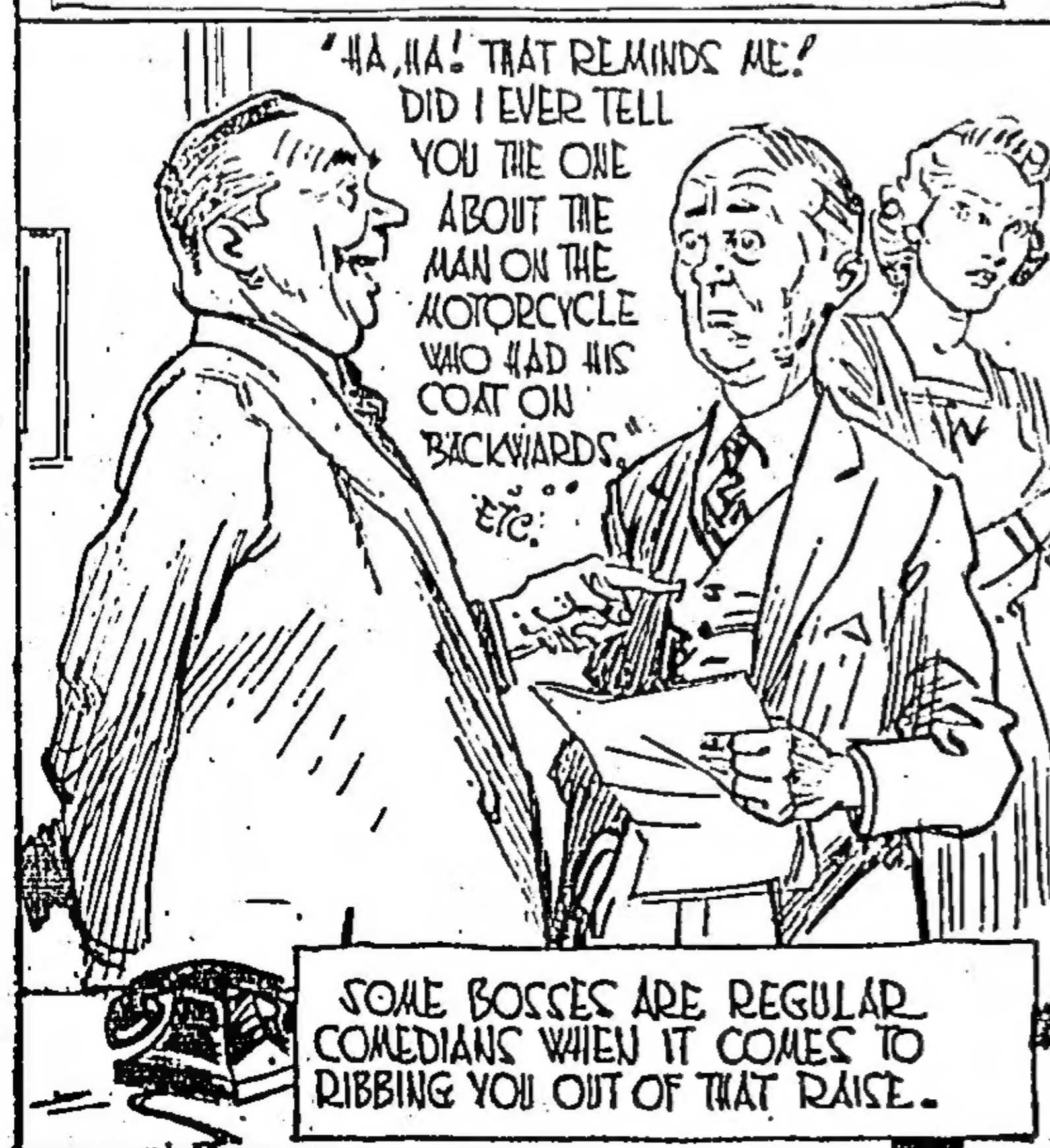
As a precaution against shoplifting Fenwick's organised a "four doors in and one out" system. Customers are welcomed at the four doors, but when they want to leave they are directed to one door only.

And at that door stands William Stubbs, repeating his question.

"My job is difficult," he said. "A wrong intonation of my voice in making that simple request will anger hundreds of women. But I get away with it, and only three women have protested."

The complaining three departed peacefully when it was pointed out that assistants had told them that bills must be produced.

VIGNETTES OF LIFE

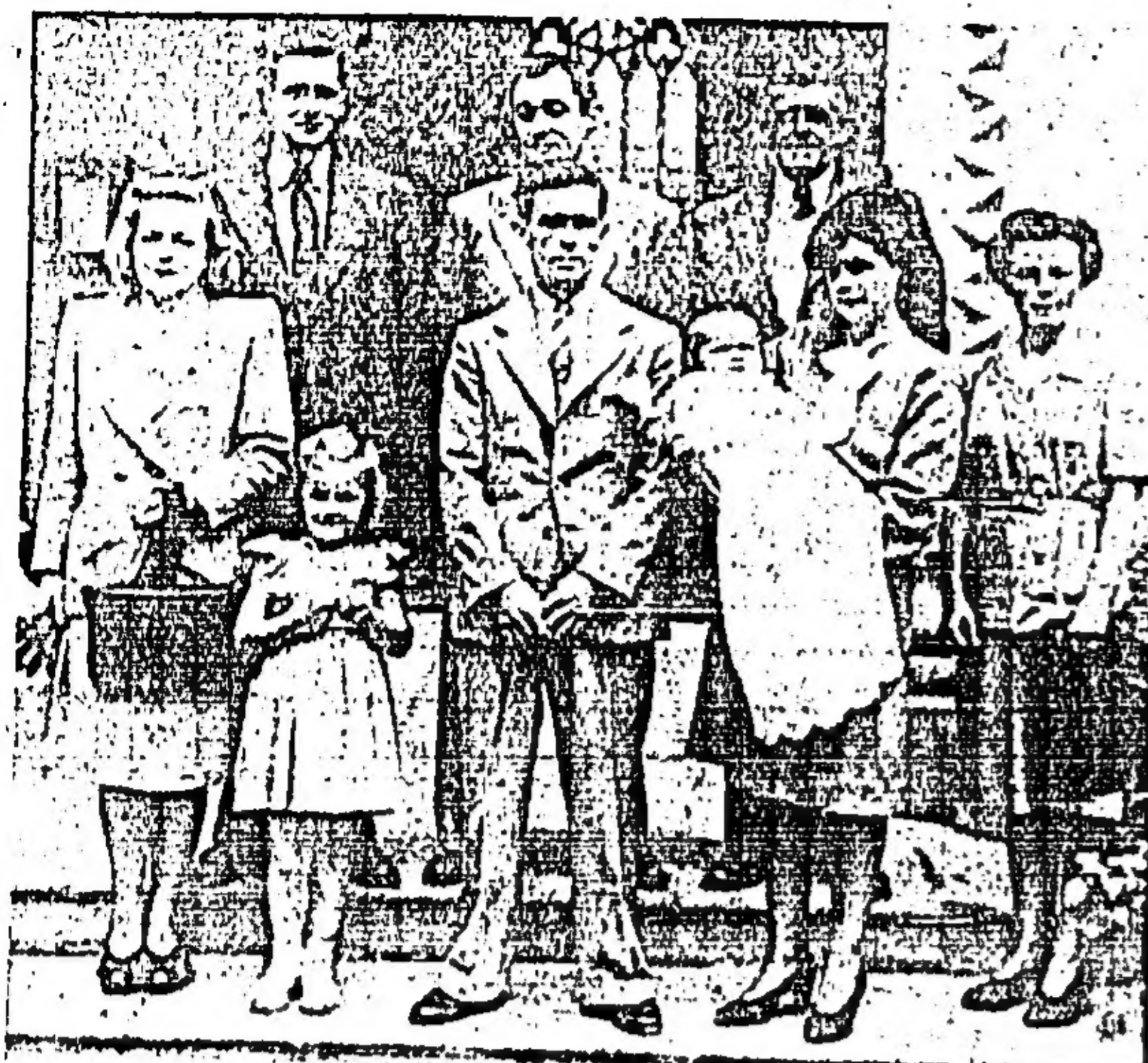


"Bosses"

By KEMP STARRETT

Ledger Syndicate

• WEEK-END PICTORIAL •



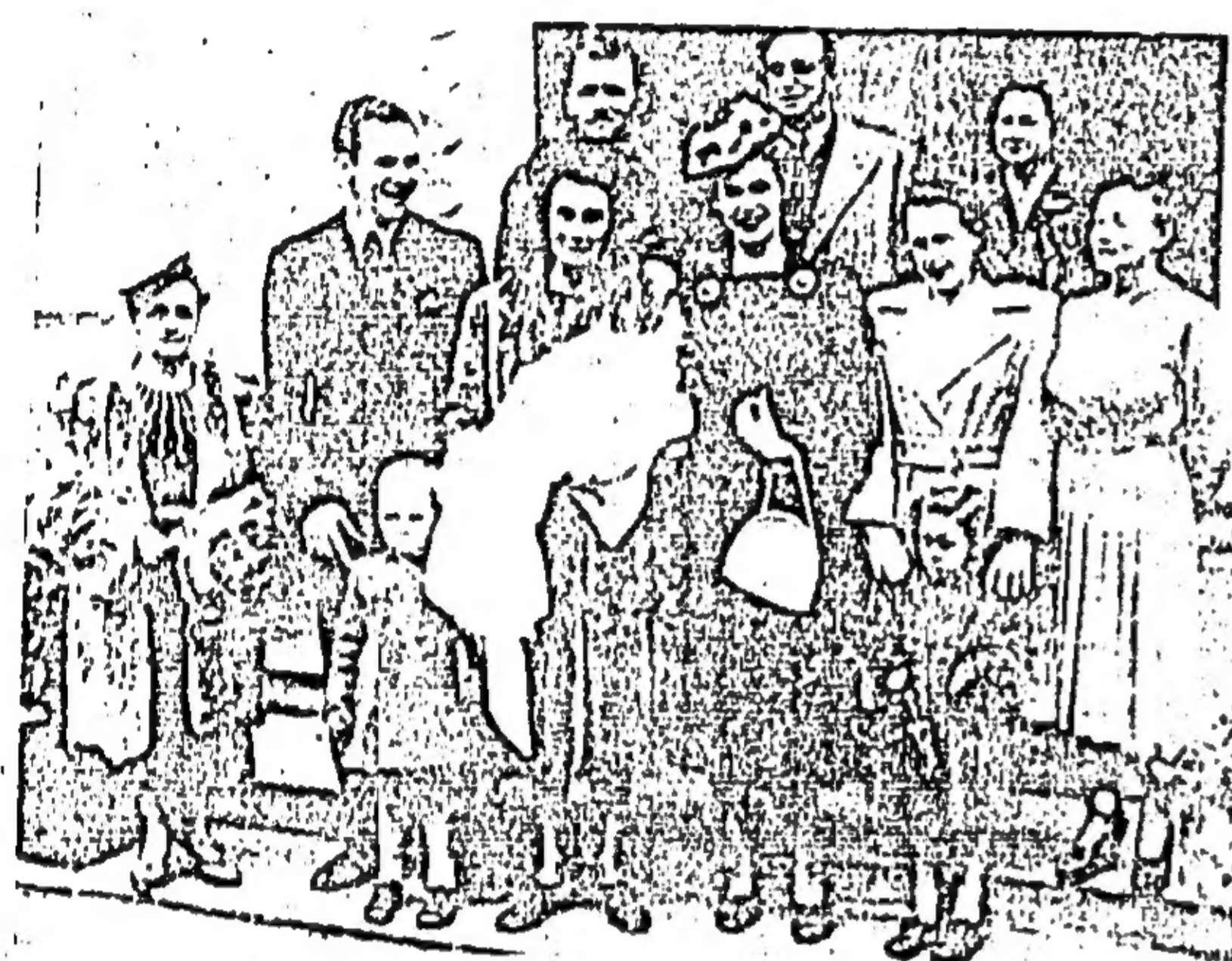
PICTURE taken after the christening at St John's Cathedral of Susan Julia, infant daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Stonehouse. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



AN excellent play featuring Red Indians, Cubs and Scouts, and several interesting boxing contests, made up the programme of entertainment presented by the 4th Hongkong Wolf Cub Pack on Monday in aid of Cub funds. Above: a scene from the play. Below: Contestants in the Flea Weight section—Nigel "Jock" Walker and John Kinniburgh. (Photos: Golden Studio)



INTERPORT DINNER—The Hon. Mr A. Morse, CBE., president of the Hongkong Football Association, speaking at the Interport dinner held in the Hongkong Hotel last Saturday. In the course of the evening, Hongkong, which won the Interport, was presented with the "Hongkong Telegraph" Cup by the Shanghai captain. (Photo: Golden Studio)



CAROL ANN MARY, infant daughter of Mr and Mrs J. V. G. Mitchell, was christened last week at St John's Cathedral. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



ABOVE are Mr and Mrs Ronald Lo, whose wedding took place at the Peninsula Hotel last week. The bride was formerly Miss Irene Wong.



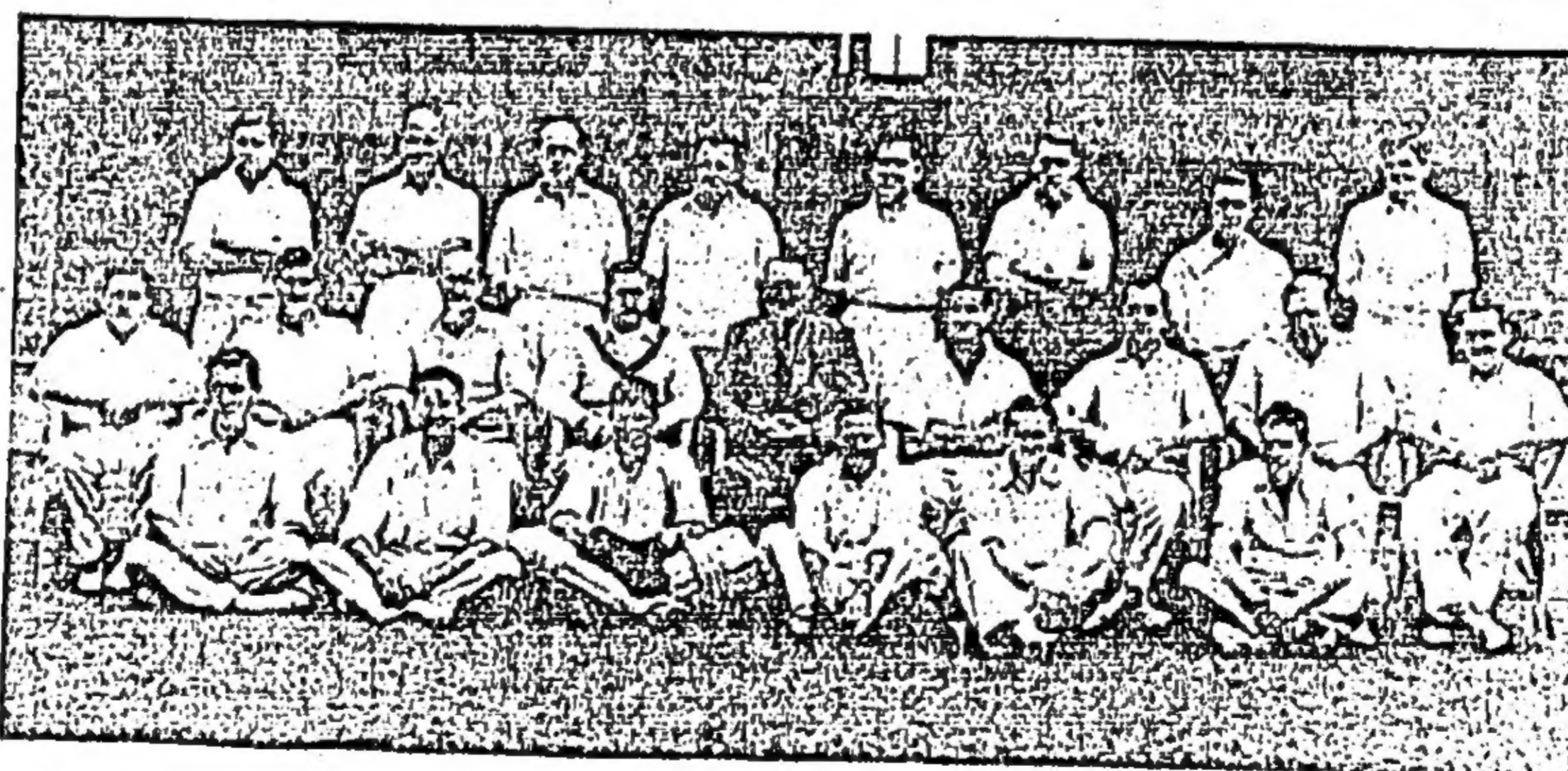
MR F. N. Hill, Principal Officer of Stanley Prison, and his bride, Miss F. Abbas, Principal Wardress of Laichikok Female Prison. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



A Highland dance was one of the popular items of entertainment presented during the V.A.D.'s Valentine Day dance. (Photo: Mee Cheung)



Mr P. S. Ingham (arrow) was guest of honour at a farewell dinner given last week by members of the Hongkong Football Club at the clubhouse. (Photo: Golden Studio)



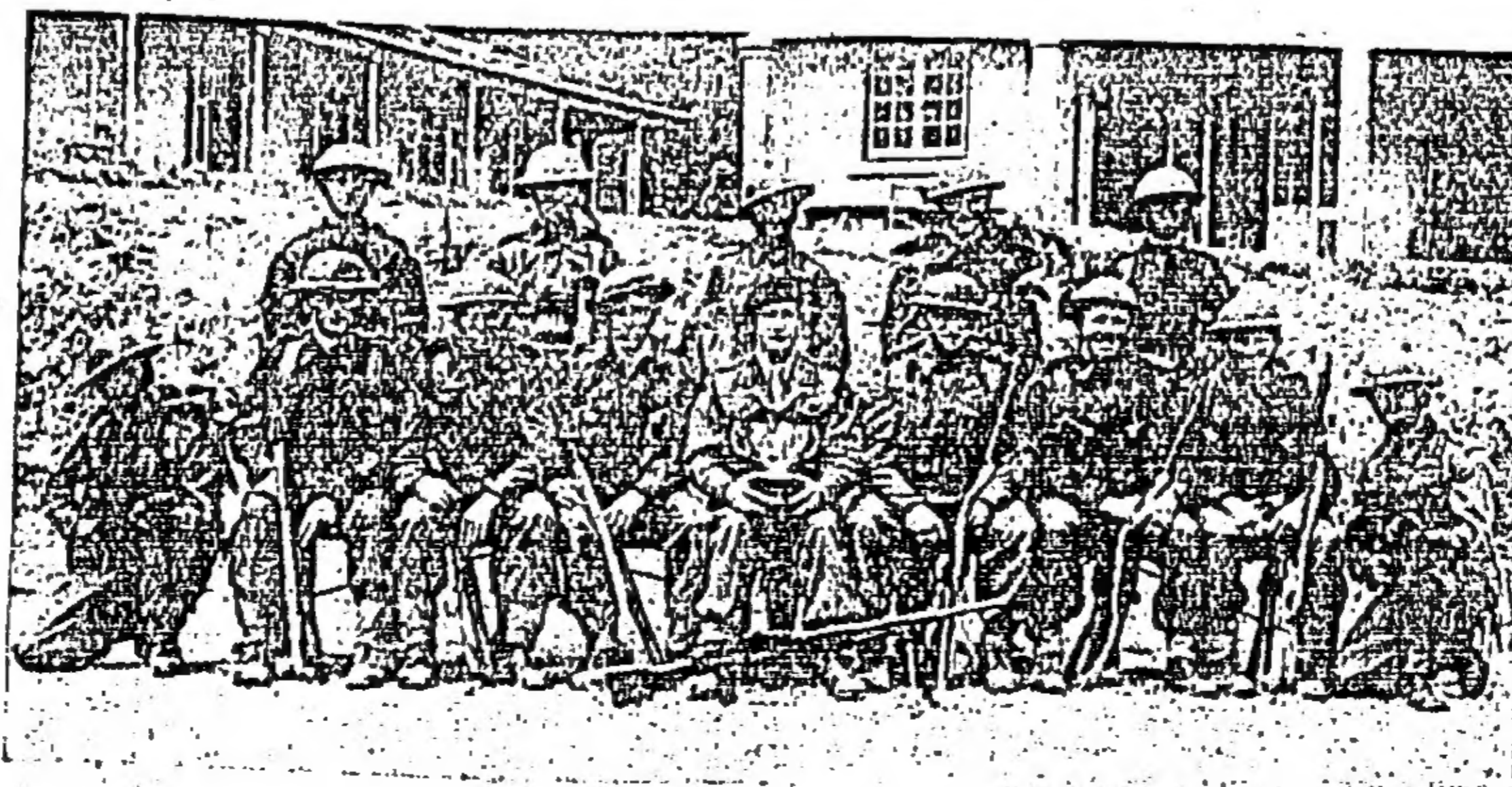
TEAMS representing the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd., which met in a friendly cricket match last Sunday. The Bank won. (Photo: Golden Studio)



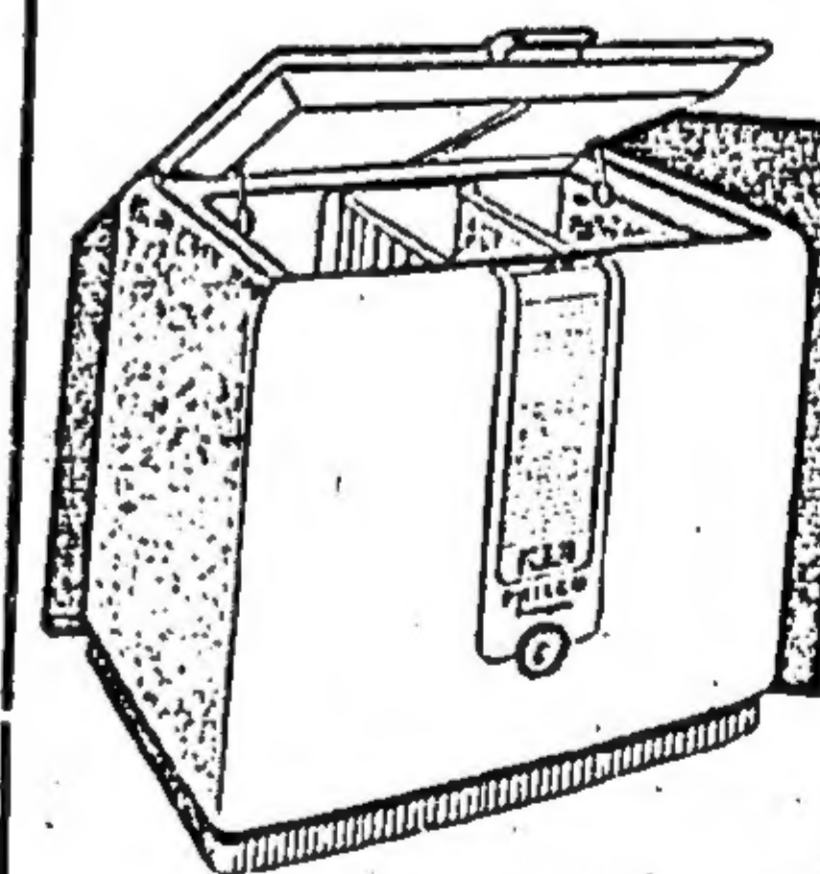
PAUL FRANCIS, son of Dr and Mrs F. H. Rand, was christened last week at St John's Cathedral. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



AN excellent picture of the large company that attended the Chinese New Year reception given by A. Wing and Company at their offices in Connaught Road last week. (Photo: Mee Cheung)



SHOOT WINNERS—Royal Marine detachments of the British Pacific Fleet shot for the Pokin Cup at Stoncutters rifle range on Monday. Above is the team from HMS Sussex, who carried away the trophy. (Official Photograph)



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BAO DAI ON WAY BACK TO HONGKONG

Paris, Feb. 20.—Bao Dai, ex-Emperor of Annam, today left Cannes, on the French Riviera, by plane for Geneva. He is on his way to Hongkong.

Bao Dai went to Cannes last week after it was announced that his projected discussion with M. Emile Dollaert, French High Commissioner for Indo-China, on a French cruiser in the Bay of Along, off the coast of North Indo-China, would take place shortly.

Last week in Paris, Bao Dai had conversations with the French Premier, M. Robert Schuman, and other Ministers and officials on the terms of a peace settlement in French Indo-China, where fighting has been going on for over a year between French forces and Indo-Chinese Nationalists.

In January, Bao Dai met M. Dollaert in Geneva for talks which were believed to include the return of his throne.

Complete Independence

Commenting on the recent conversations in Paris between the French Premier and Bao Dai, the Vietnamese (Indo-Chinese Nationalist) newspaper, *Dani Minh*, today said it had reason to believe that Bao Dai had asked for complete independence for a unified Vietnam, including the sovereign administration of Vietnamese diplomacy, economy and finances, it was reported from Saigon.

On the French military offensive recently launched in the Plain de Salgon, the paper said that the French-Indo-Chinese problem could not be settled by the army, but only peacefully.

A large-scale French offensive, even if successful, would not necessarily entail political advantages, the paper wrote.

It added: "Is it the French Government's idea to exercise diplomatic pressure on Vietnam by means of military victories?"—Reuter.

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NOTICE

THE "STAR" FERRY CO., LTD.

Notice To Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the forty-sixth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Members of this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wednesday the 17th day of March, 1948, at Noon, to receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1947, to elect Directors and to appoint Auditors.

Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 4th March, 1948, to the 17th March, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
C. E. TERRY,
Manager & Secretary.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1948.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARMED COUP PLOT REVEALED

Government Crisis

London, Feb. 20.—The discovery of a plot to carry out an armed coup in Czechoslovakia was announced tonight in a joint statement by M. Vaclav Nosek, Czech Minister of the Interior, and General Ludvik Svoboda, Minister of Defence, according to Prague Radio.

SPORT:

LUCKLESS DISPLAY BY M.C.C.

Georgetown, British Guiana, Feb. 20.—Losing Len Hutton to the fifth ball of the day without addition to his Thursday score of 138, the M.C.C. apart from J. C. Laker and J. H. Wardle, shaped an disappointing team in their first innings against British Guiana on the second day of their match here.

In reply, the home side has scored 144 for the loss of four wickets by the close of play.

Most of the tourists' batsmen did not appear at all confident against steady bowling, and six wickets fell for the addition of only 63 runs to their overnight score of 260 for four. Of these runs, Laker and Wardle made 48.

Laker, who was seven not out overnight, made a useful 20, while Wardle, in a bright knock, scored 35.

J. P. Bayley, the British Guiana captain, who toured England in 1939, alone remained solid in the home side's innings, and by the close of play was still unbeaten with 60 to his credit.—Reuter.

Sheffield Shield Match

Melbourne, Feb. 20.—The bowling of Douglas Ring, William Johnson and Sam Loxton for Victoria against South Australia, who scored 281 for six, on the first day of their Sheffield Shield match here today suggested that they were fortunate that the team for England had already been chosen.

The Victorian fielding, as well as the bowling, was below standard and P. Ridings, whose 113 not out was the only colourful feature of the day's play, was missed three times. Ring took three for 70, but Johnson took 50 and William Johnson one for 45. Loxton had 38 runs knocked off him without taking a wicket.—Reuter.

PETER KANE LOSES

Manchester, Feb. 20.—Peter Kane of Great Britain, declared by many as the outstanding British fighter of 1947, lost his European bantamweight title to Guido Ferracin, the Italian champion, at Belle Vue, Manchester, tonight by a point decision after 15 rounds.

Ferracin's victory must have been by the narrowest of margins, but few would quarrel with the verdict, which ended Kane's amazing "comeback". In the past 18 months he has won all his fights.

Tonight, Kane was a much more subdued boxer. Gone was the old zip and fire, which characterised his more recent ring battles.

Although Kane adopted tactics familiar to himself by pressing his opponent at every opportunity, he found the lively Italian too skilful and too fast.—Reuter.

Soong To Become Premier?

(Continued from Page 1)

a free hand in naming his cabinet. Political observers base their predictions along the following lines: With American aid about to become a reality, China needs her most able economist and her best-known and respected statesman abroad to handle this end of American aid. That the talents of the Governor are wasted in the rehabilitation of Kwangtung at a time when China has not the financial resources to carry out any large projects.

The recent "private" visit of General Wu Teh-chien, Secretary-General of the Kuomintang Party, has also aroused much interest. The same sources predict that should Dr Soong relinquish his present post, his most likely successor would be General Wu, who was Governor when the Japanese occupied Canton in the autumn of 1938.—Reuter.

CHURCH NOTICE

GOSPEL HALL

(Between the Bank of China and the National City Bank of New York)
Sunday 11 a.m. Breaking-of-Bread.
Sunday 8 p.m. Gospel Meeting.
Tuesday 8 p.m. Bible Study.
Thursday 8 p.m. Prayer Meeting.
All English speaking friends are welcome.

Printed and published by FRANKLIN FRANKLIN for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong

The two Ministers said they discovered the plot in the past week while investigating allegations made in the Czechoslovak Socialist newspaper, *Svobodne Slovo*, that "anti-State elements" held offices in the Government.

The plot was said to have been organised by adherents of General Prehoda, who was deprived of his rank in 1945 after opposing the exiled Czechoslovak Government in England during the war.—Reuter.

Ministers Resign

Prague, Feb. 20.—An early dissolution of the Czechoslovak Constituent Assembly and the election of a new Parliament is expected here tonight following the resignation of six non-Communist Ministers in the 19-month old Coalition Cabinet.

M. Klement Gottwald, Czechoslovakia's Communist Premier, is expected to offer the resignation of his five-party Coalition Cabinet when he reports to Dr Benes, the President, on the resignation of the other Ministers—three members of Dr Benes' Czech Socialist Party and three People's Party members. The Cabinet would then be asked to remain in office until a general election is held.

The first to resign today were the three Czech Socialists—Dr Peter Zenzl, Vice-Premier, Professor Jaroslav Stransky and Dr Prokop Dittina, Minister of Justice. Then the three People's Party members—M. Frantisek Hala (Posts and Telegraphs), M. Adolf Prochazka (Health) and Minister Jan Stramek, a Vice-Premier—handed their resignations to M. Gottwald.

Laws Disregarded

Explaining their resignations in a letter to President Benes, they said that some officials, especially in the police, disregarded the laws and Government decisions.

The People's Party executive, in an official statement, expressed regret at being forced to conclude that it was not possible to go on working in a Government which did not respect its own decisions.

It added, however, that the party believes in the necessity of co-operation between all the parties in the Government Coalition.

The resignations have not been officially announced, though they will be reported in tomorrow's newspapers, but the Czechoslovak news agency reported that the Cabinet meeting, expected today, was not held because the Czech Socialist and Slovak Democrat (Catholic Conservative) Ministers did not arrive for it.

Earlier Elections

The Cabinet was to have met in an effort to compose its differences in the light of a warning from the President of the Republic that a resignation would mean a dissolution and elections earlier than those due to take place in the spring.

M. Gottwald had promised at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday that the Communist Minister of the Interior would answer at today's meeting charges by some of his colleagues of alleged "bolshhevization" of public posts.

The Social Democrats were trying today to reach a last-minute agreement to save the Coalition.

Between them, the Communists and Social Democrats have 150 seats in Parliament and the two Slovak Labour Party members usually vote with them.

The remaining parties hold 148 seats.—Reuter.

Knives, Hatchets In Camp Fights

Marseilles, Feb. 20.—A fight broke out today between 100 Indo-Chinese workers residing in the camps of Baumettes and Mazargues, near Marseilles, the police reported tonight.

The workers attacked one another with knives, hatchets and other weapons. Six were injured—three gravely—and had to be taken to hospital in Marseilles following police intervention.

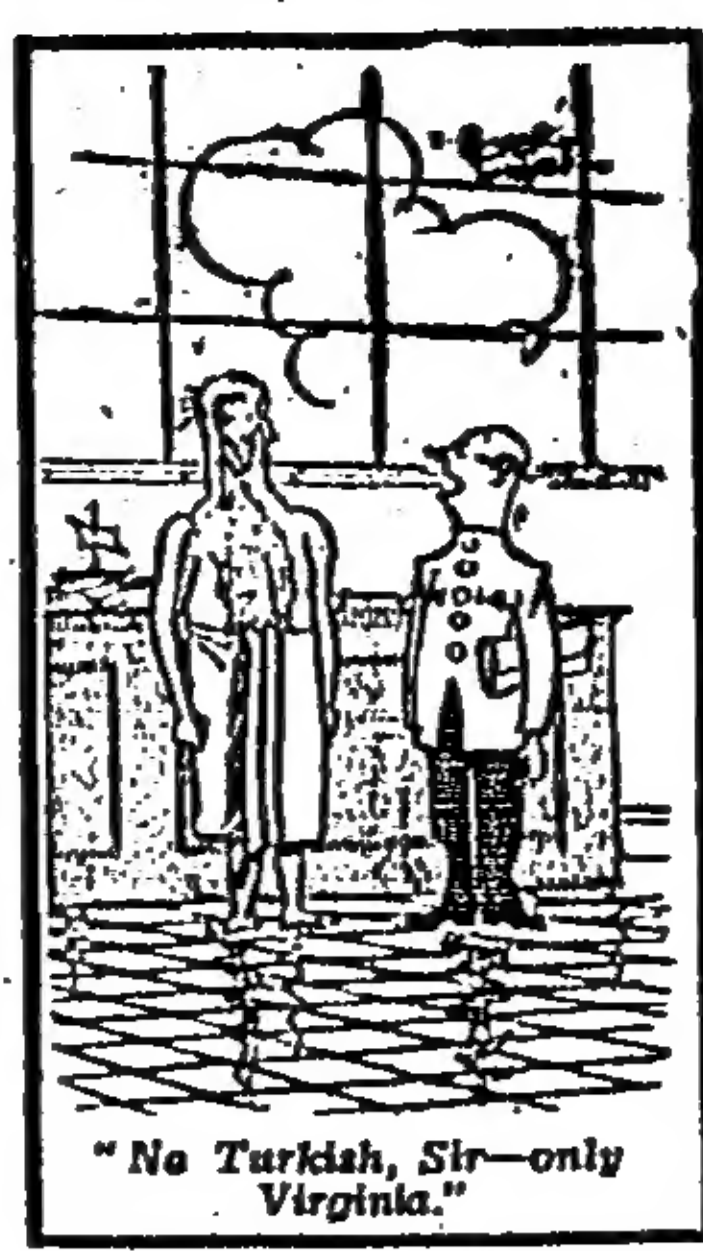
Fifteen Indo-Chinese were taken to police headquarters to be questioned.

The police refused to disclose the cause of the fight, of Indo-Chinese workers from these camps was to be repatriated from Marseilles on a French troopship next Tuesday.—Reuter.

Cairo Rocked By Explosion

Cairo, Feb. 20.—A terrific explosion rocked Cairo tonight.

The police rushed in strong force to the Dar el Ahmar district outside the city, where they stated "many casualties" were feared. Other details were not available. The explosion occurred outside the headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood.—Reuter.



HsinKong So Findings

(Continued from Page 1)

portions that it was deemed inadvisable to open the lower hatch (thereby allowing additional air to enter the hold) with a view to ascertaining the cause of it; and all that was done was to play two hoses as well as possible. Apparently there had been a fairly reasonable pressure of water to begin with, but the pressure gradually dwindled and eventually failed altogether about 9.20 a.m. Some time prior to this, the chief officer states he turned on the steam smothering valve, but he was of the opinion that there was little or no steam in the pipes. This was not reported to the engine room, as it was apparently assumed that, as the steam smothering system was part of the auxiliary supply which was on at all times, there must have been no steam in the boilers. This being so, the fire had been extinguished at 7.30 a.m. when there was 60 lbs. of steam pressure; although the pressure of water decreased soon after the hoses were applied, no effort was made to use the hand pump as by this time (about 9 a.m.) the smoke from No. 1 hold was increasing so much that it was felt it would be ineffective. The Chief Engineer also feared by this time that the settling tank might explode. No flames were seen anywhere. It was decided to abandon ship at 9.30 a.m. Flames were first seen coming from the forward part of the ship about 10.30 a.m. an hour after the abandonment.

CAUSE UNKNOWN

The cause of this second fire, which eventually gutted the vessel, is also unknown. The Chinese crackers, which was the only type of dangerous goods on board, were stored in the forward tween decks. They took no part in the initial spread of the fire, although after abandonment, they were heard exploding. Throughout the enquiry, the possibility of the No. 1 hold bulkhead becoming red-hot as a result of the first fire with the result that either the cargo next to the bulkhead (or near it) or the oil in the settling tank, or the communicating pipe, becoming ignited, was kept in mind. But we have no concrete evidence of that. That may be the explanation of the cause of this second fire. We do not know. But it is, to say the least of it, regrettable that no senior officer on board thought it worth while to give orders that the compartment adjoining the area of the first fire, be kept under observation as from 6.30 a.m. If that had been done, even although fire had threatened to develop at, say 7.30 a.m., with 60 lbs. of steam pressure then in the steam smothering system, we feel constrained to the belief that a second fire need never have been allowed to develop in the way that it did.

Bearing in mind, of course, (a) the fact that repairs to the heater, tubes, jointing and other parts were carried out as recently as 27.1.48, (b) the fact that No. 1 stater, (Mak Kam Chun), although he did not go round tightening all coupling joints during the few days subsequent to 27.1.48 was satisfied there were no leaks, (c) the fact that those people who actually did go right into the stokehold, immediately after the first fire was extinguished, did not see any evidence of the bulkhead being red hot, although blackened, (d) the absence of any other evidence, indicating definitely a nexus between the first and second fire and, (e) (while making allowances for the Chief Officer's inexperience of what an oil fire looked and smelt like) the fact of his repeated assertion, in a general way, that the smoke from both fires contained "gases," we feel bound to say that the possibility of incendiaries cannot be definitely ruled out.

Owing to the very recent engagement of a new engine room crew and the irregularity of their signing on, the Court was on its guard throughout the enquiry to test the bona fides of this aspect of the matter. There seems to be little room for any suspicion on that score. Indeed, some of the most specific and enlightening evidence was given by these new hands.

INADEQUATE FIRE PATROLS

A review of the existing instructions on the subject of fire and other emergency precautions reveals that some of these are either relaxed, or are not enforced with the same stringency in some of the smaller vessels plying in what is known as the "river trade," as in ocean going vessels. In the present case we are satisfied there was a complete abandonment of the fire patrol system.

While his responsibility cannot be considered so great as that of the master, his omissions also in our opinion amount to default. This is a Court of Investigation into a casualty, not a Court of Inquiry into charges of incompetence or misconduct; and, as we are at present constituted, in view of the provisions of section 19 (2) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, we may take no further action except to record our censure of both these officers.

Russian Accusations Called Tiresome

Berlin, Feb. 20.—At today's Allied Control Council, Governor Lucius D. Clay, the American Military Governor of Germany, described as "tiresome" the repeated Soviet charges or delay in demilitarisation.

The Western delegates at today's meeting—General Pierre Koenig (France), Lieutenant General H. C. D. Brownjohn, substituting for General Sir Brian Robertson (Britain) and General Clay—said the four-power inspection in principle had not been rejected. Only the plan put forward at a previous meeting by Marshal Sokolovsky had been turned down.

They had rejected the plan because of Soviet accusations in its preamble. General Clay said today, in a statement with which the British and French Military Governors associated themselves, that he was not disposed to discuss a document containing accusations such as those in the Soviet plan.

"We hear constant rumours of ship construction in places like Rostock, of uranium mining in Saxony and of questionable war equipment being produced in the Soviet zone," General Clay said. "Though these were only rumours, he declared they were helping to destroy four-power confidence, and it would be a good thing to clear them up.—Reuter.

German Assets Claim

London, Feb. 20.—The United States delegation to the conference of the Big Four Foreign Ministers' deputies opening here today thinks Russia's claims to German assets excessive, it was learned here today.

The United States is affected as the source of economic aid to Austria, and the impression is that the Americans consider Russia's terms too steep a price for the evacuation of foreign troops from Austria.

sence of adequate fire patrols; fire drills for crew (especially bearing in mind the frequent changes) were too seldom carried out and inadequately conducted. One witness said he never did any fire drill. Most witnesses, in this case, when asked to describe a fire drill, proceeded to describe some sort of procedure whereby everybody took to the life boats as fast as they could. We gained the impression in this case that the senior officers were not sufficiently aware of what was going on in the vessel under their care, and, in particular, were not kept properly advised of the progress of this fire. There was a regrettable absence of communication of information from one department to another, and lack of initiative on the part of the senior officers. There can be no excuse in a properly organised vessel, for the failure of the master, (through the chief engineer) to ascertain important facts, such as, that the boiler pressure at 7.30 a.m. was 60 lbs.

It is within our knowledge that this is the third fire on a ship which has occurred in the waters of the Colony during the last year. And, in our opinion, the time has come for a review of all existing regulations and instructions on the subject of fire prevention, especially on ships of this class.

A master of a well organised ship is entitled to assume that his subordinates will act, in an emergency, in accordance with pre-arranged rules and established practice. But that cannot be too strongly emphasised that the ultimate responsibility for the safety of a ship, and all aboard it, rests upon the shoulders of the master; and while we commend the master of the "Hsin Kong So" that in the result, there was no loss of life, we feel strongly that had adequate orders been issued early, during the course of the first fire, to inspect the vessel, more especially the surrounding compartments including the forward No. 1 hold, the second fire would have been detected in its initial stages, and might have been prevented entirely from developing into the conflagration which ultimately consumed the entire ship.

MASTER'S OMISSIONS

We also are of the opinion that the fire fighting equipment on board was not used to the best advantage. For example, we consider that the Chief Engineer should have taken immediate steps to bring into operation the steam smothering system to the stokehold fire. Again only two of the six hoses were used at any one time. At least one smoke helmet was on board. It was not in fact used, and we find it difficult to believe that it was at all material times inaccessible.

In conclusion we are of the opinion that while the master took timely and adequate steps to prevent loss of life, his failure, not only to ensure that the best possible immediate use was made of all available fire fighting equipment, but also to issue orders for the inspection of the compartments of the ship adjoining the seat of the first fire, contributed to the loss of this vessel. His omissions in our opinion amount to default within the meaning of sub-section 8 (a) of Section 19 of Ordinance 10 of 1939. The chief engineer also failed to make the best use of all fire fighting equipment in the case of the stokehold fire, in particular the steam smothering system.

While his responsibility cannot be considered so great as that of the master, his omissions also in our opinion amount to default. This is a Court of Investigation into a casualty, not a Court of Inquiry into charges of incompetence or misconduct; and, as we are at present constituted, in view of the provisions of section 19 (2) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, we may take no further action except to record our censure of both these officers.

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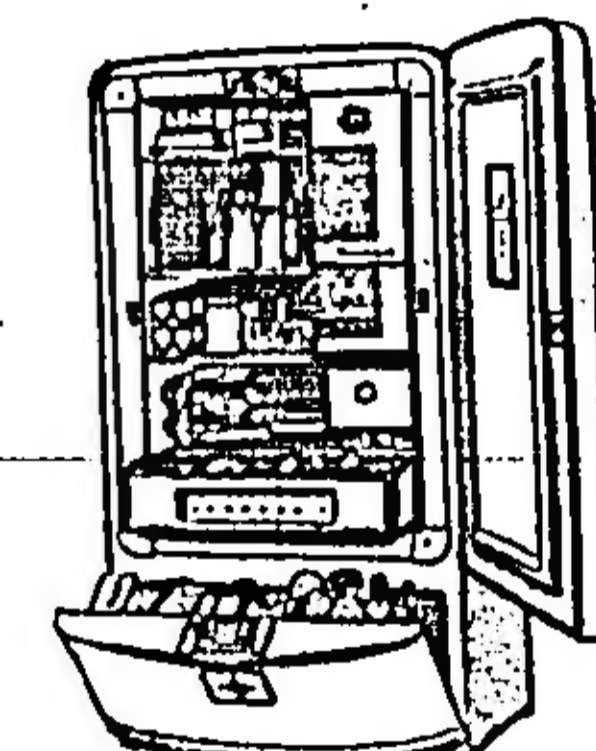


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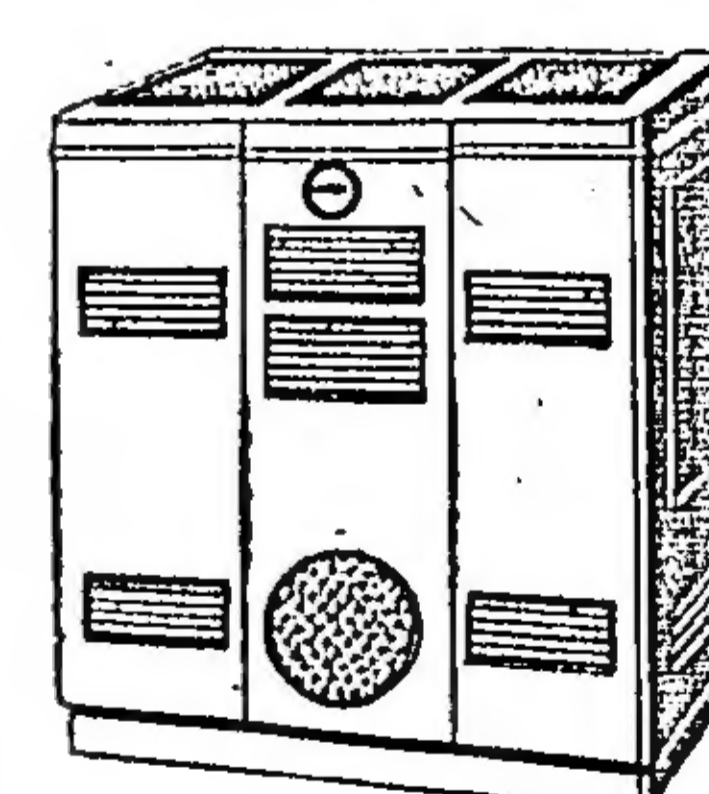
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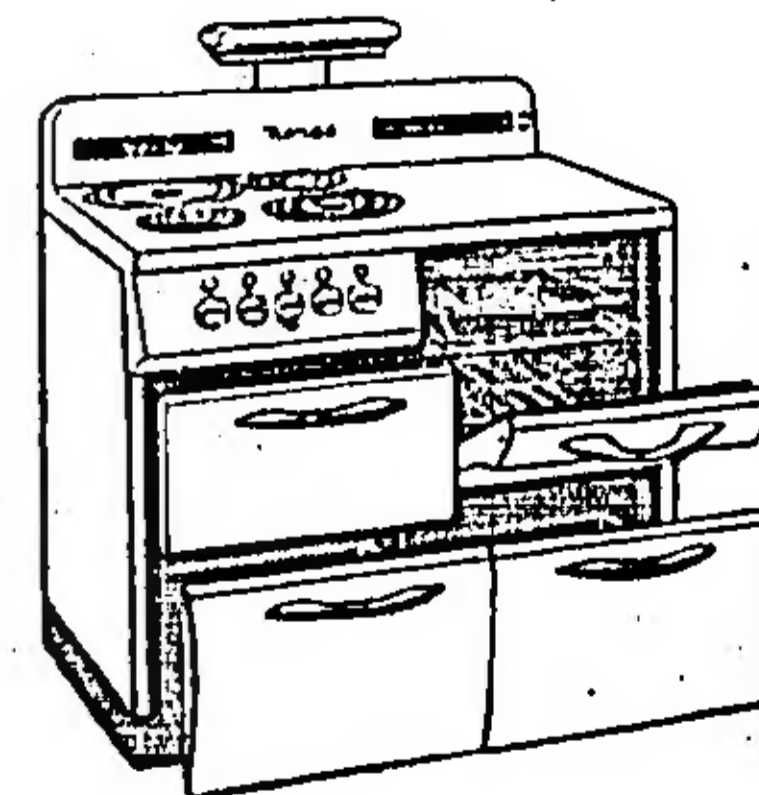
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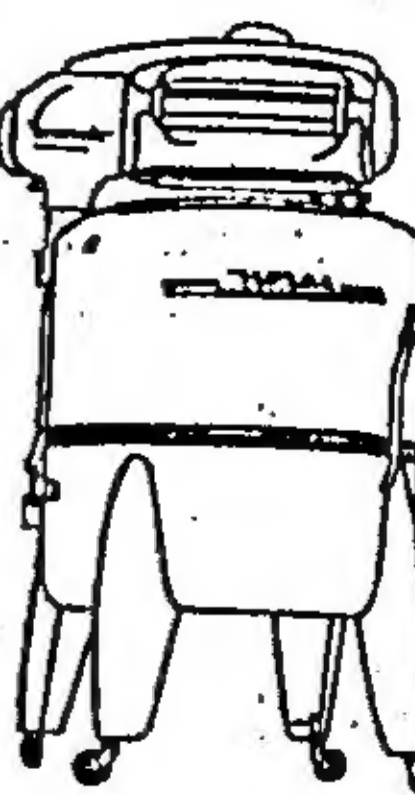
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